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**iPOD REHAB P.59**  
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**86**  
**OCT**  
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# MacAddict

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◀ MacSkinz, Stylus Photo 900, Bravo Disc Publisher, Visual Thesaurus, BloodRayne, Unreal Tournament 2003, Leica D-Lux, Mercury Extreme G4, SimCity 4, Nisus Writer Express, Tropico Mucho Macho, and much more...

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# features

## 18 Mac Software Slugfest

Fight! It's QuarkXPress versus Adobe InDesign. Macromedia Dreamweaver MX versus Adobe GoLive. Apple Keynote versus Microsoft PowerPoint. And much more. The top Mac products go mano a mano—see which ones survive and which go down for the count. **by the MacAddict staff and contributors**

## 32 Seven Days to an Organized Mac

If you've been neglecting your Mac, it's time to give it some love. We've got a painless seven-day plan that'll whip your Mac—and your productivity—back into shape. **by Cathy Lu**

## 40 Protect Yourself from Online Scams

Even seemingly invincible Mac users can get hacked, scammed, and taken for a ride. We've got some quick tips for how to protect yourself online. **by Narasu Rebbapragada**

## how to

### 64 Ask Us

This month we tackle how to improve iChat AV chats, rebuild corrupt iPhoto libraries, and build a Web site easily and cheaply in Mac OS X.



### 66 Customize Safari

Just because Apple doesn't provide any direct way to alter Safari's facade doesn't mean it can't be done.

**by Kris Fong**

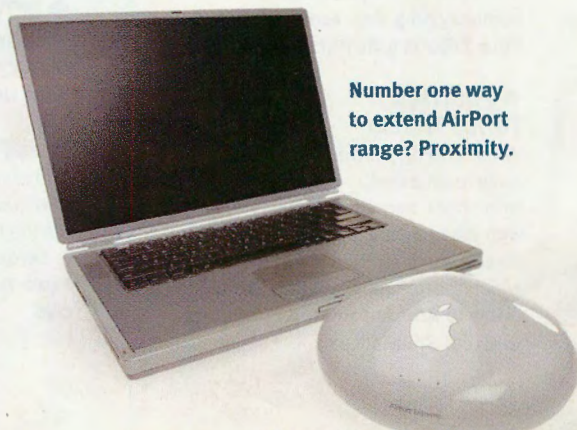
### 70 Increase Your TiBook's AirPort Range

Titanium was the design hook of the 15-inch PowerBooks—who'd a thunk it'd be such a radio-frequency squelcher? Luckily, there are ways to eke out more AirPort range. **by Emory Christensen**

### 74 Add Automated Functions to Excel Sheets

While we can't make spreadsheets any more exciting, we can speed things up by embedding automation into an Excel worksheet.

**by Kris Fong and Helen Bradley**



Number one way to extend AirPort range? Proximity.



# every month

## 08 Editors' Page

Some call it paranoia. Some call it enlightened self-interest.

## 10 Get Info

Musicians take their Macs out of the studio and onto the stage. Check out the new Handspring phone-PDA, a set of stylish 5.1 speakers, and designer duds for your iPod. Plus, the world of WarCraft goes online.

## 43 Reviews

- 50 **Allegro FW800** FireWire 800 PCI card
- 58 **Astra FS180** film scanner
- 54 **BloodRayne** third-person action game
- 53 **Bravo Disc Publisher** disc publishing system
- 50 **Cobra FireWire 800/USB II HD** FireWire 800 hard drive
- 61 **DLO Action Jacket** iPod case
- 60 **Expert Mouse** optical trackball
- 59 **Ice Creme** acrylic polish and scratch remover
- 50 **LaCie FireWire 800 PCI Card** FireWire 800 PCI card
- 60 **LapTop Desk** laptop stand
- 46 **Leica D-Lux** 3.2-megapixel digital camera
- 61 **MacSkinz** iBook cover
- 58 **Mercury Extreme G4** G4 processor upgrade
- 50 **Mercury FireWire 800 PCI** FireWire 800 PCI card
- 47 **Nisus Writer Express** word-processing software
- 50 **OrangeLink FireWire 800/1394b PCI Card** FireWire 800 PCI card
- 60 **PocketMouse SE** travel mouse
- 57 **SimCity 4** civilization-building sim game
- 48 **Studio TVR** DV converter and TV recorder/player
- 52 **Stylus Photo 900** inkjet photo and disc printer
- 56 **Tropico Mucho Macho** civilization-building strategy game
- 44 **Unreal Tournament 2003** first-person shooter
- 59 **Visual Thesaurus** thesaurus software

## 62 The Hot List

If the editors of MacAddict went shopping,



## QUICK TIPS FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

### ➔ GET HORIZONTAL

If you have an AirPort Base Station, position it horizontally; it doesn't radiate as well if you mount it vertically on a wall. **From "How to Increase Your TiBook's AirPort Range," p70**



### ➔ POSITION TOOLS WISELY

When adding Forms tools to an Excel worksheet, align them with the cell they'll affect so you can keep better track of which tool influences what. **From "How to Add Automated Functions to Excel Sheets," p74**



### ➔ CONVERT AAC TO MP3

To convert an iTunes Music Store AAC file to MP3, first burn the AAC to CD, then rip it into the MP3 format. **From Ask Us, p64**

### ➔ MOVE THE WHOLE FAMILY

You can import existing Sims characters into SimCity 4—including your pets from The Sims Unleashed. **From Reviews, p57**

### ➔ SUPERSIZE TROPICO

The Mucho Macho edition of Tropico is more than just an add-on to the original game—it's the full game plus expansion packs. *Viva la bargain!* **From Reviews, p56**



## 94 Log Out

### 94 Letters

News Flashes: The Hulk isn't so mean, Steve Jobs didn't email us, Bill Gates didn't hijack Apple, and Storm Troopers make a lovely compote.

### 95 Contest

Win Digidesign's all-in-one portable music studio, the Mbox, along with the latest CD from DJ Richie Hawtin (aka Plastikman).

### 96 Shut Down

To err may be human, but last month we almost committed the most embarrassing mistake in the history of MacAddict.



# Don't Get Burned Buying Memory Upgrades!

## Three Questions Other Memory Providers Hope You'll Never Ask...

### Were you awarded Computer Shopper's "Best Place to Buy RAM" two years in a row?

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### Do you actually make the memory you sell?

WARNING! Listen carefully to the answer when you ask this question. Other memory companies claim to manufacture memory, too. What they actually do is assemble the memory chips made by someone else into memory modules. Ask them this: Do you make the chips that go on your memory modules? The chips are the important part, after all.

Crucial is the only memory upgrade supplier that's part of a major DRAM manufacturer, Micron. We actually make the chips that go on the modules. In fact, because the world's leading

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— EnvyNews.com

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# the disc

On page 32 of this month's issue, we tell you how to organize your Mac, and on page 40, we show you how to protect yourself online; on the Disc, we give you apps that'll help you get those things done. Plus, we give you a ton of design, audio, and graphics apps—and more. Ain't we sweet?

## Freeway Express 3.5 trial

Want to step up from you ISP's free Web-page maker, but don't want to wrestle with Dreamweaver or GoLive? Try Freeway Express.



## WireTap 1.0

From the good folks that brought you Snapz Pro comes a handy piece of freeware that lets your record any audio streaming from the Web to your Mac.



## iPhoto Buddy 1.1.4

iPhoto may be cool, but wouldn't it be cooler—and a lot faster—if you could arrange all of your photos into multiple albums? With iPhoto Buddy, you can.



## on the Disc

### AUDIO & MUSIC

Detour 1.0.1  
LaunchTunes 1.0  
WireTap 1.0

### DEVELOPMENT

Konfabulator 1.5  
REALbasic 5.2 demo  
SilverCreator PPC 1.0.2  
SilverCreator X 1.0.2

### FUN & GAMES

Germes 1.0  
Trisection 1.0.1  
Unreal Tournament 2003 demo  
Wolverine's Revenge game trailer

### GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA

FontViewer 1.5.3  
Freeway Express 3.5 trial  
GraphicConverter 4.8  
GraphicConverter X 4.8  
InDesign 2.0.1 tryout  
iPhoto Buddy 1.1.4  
ThumbsUp 3.1

### INTERFACE

ASM 2.1b4  
DockExtender 3.0.5  
FruitMenu 3.1.1  
LaunchBar 3.2.11

VirtualDesktop 2.3.7  
WindowShade X 3.0ppr  
XFolderSets 1.0

### INTERNET & COMMUNICATION

ContentBarrier X demo  
Mail Forward 2.0  
MaxBulk Mailer X 2.8  
NetBarrier X demo  
Spamfire (OS 9) 1.3.9.1 demo  
Spamfire (OS X) 1.3.9.1 demo  
SpamSieve 1.3.1  
VersaForward 3.0 trial

## iPod Makeover



Can a dedicated team of haute couture experts rehabilitate MacAddict's most hard-core fashion criminal? With the help of the slickest iPod accessories on the planet, anything is possible.

### PRODUCTIVITY

BurnoutMenu 1.1.3  
Check Off 2.1.1  
Hydra 1.1.1  
Nisus Writer Express 1.0 demo  
Office v. X Test Drive  
PMX 1.80

### UTILITIES

Bad Cookie X 1.6  
CiphSafe 1.2  
Déjà Vu 2.4.1  
DiskTracker 2.3  
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3  
Extended Software Updater 2.0  
Fetch Art for iTunes 1.0.2  
Find Album Artwork with Google  
Impression 1.67  
Mac GPG 1.2.1r2  
MacScan Classic PB7  
MacScan Carbon PB7  
MacStumbler 0.75b  
Pastor 1.3.2  
PersonalBackup X demo  
Serial Storage 2.7.1  
VirusBarrier X demo

### SPONSORS

DriveSavers: Lost Data video promo  
IK Multimedia: Amplitube Live promo  
REAL Software: REALbasic 5.2 demo

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# Paranoia Strikes Deep

Our editor isn't related to Ted Kaczynski—but sometimes he envies his lil' mountain cabin.



MacAddict's art director, Chris Imlay, thinks I'm a raving lunatic. I think he's a starry-eyed naïf.

Our dispute centers around the fact that I refuse to join my local supermarket's "club card" system—you know, the scheme in which you trade personal information such as your telephone number and address for a store-specific card that gives you a discount on your next purchase of Chips Ahoy Peanut Butter Creme Wiches. Chris doesn't mind that the store uses these cards to gather information on his buying habits. I do.

Call me paranoid—you won't be the first—but I believe the less information about me that's cycling through databases owned by industries, insurance companies, or the government, the better. And if that means I won't get 30 cents off my next purchase of Heinz Zesty Garlic Ketchup Kick'rs, so be it.

I read recently that some poor schlub was denied insurance because his club card showed that he has a somewhat excessive fondness for distilled spirits. Will Aetna drop me when they discover I invest in the occasional bottle of E&J V.S.O.P. Brandy? Might the telemarketing industry interrupt even more of my dinner hours when my bank tells them that my credit rating is triple-A plus? And on a far more disturbing level, will John Ashcroft add me to his watch list because my neighborhood library reveals my fondness for the leftie musings of Noam Chomsky?

Personally, I'd rather not find out. Better safe than sorry, I say.

So I'm doing my best to stay off the info grid—but I know I'm fighting a losing battle. Think about all the varieties of digital information one's life produces: tax records, credit-card purchases, TiVo usage, cell-phone based location data, electronic toll-paying comings and goings—the list is endless. In most cases, of course, there's no sinister intent behind such data collection—I'm not *that* paranoid—but in the not-too-distant future when all these databases link up, someone will always know where you are, where you've been, whom you've been talking to, what you've been reading, what you just bought, and whether that nagging herpes infection is flaring up again.

Personally, I'd rather keep such information to myself. Turn to page 40, and we'll help you do so too.

Enjoy, *R.k*

## coming soon: november 2003

Our editors fill you in on what they're preparing for the next issue of MacAddict.

### FEATURES: Automation

If my Mac is so smart, why do I end up doing all the work? It turns out it just needs some training, so next month we'll show you how to tell your Mac to **take care of business—automatically**. We'll also show you how to set up the **ideal home office**, and give you a sneak peek at the blockbuster game **Halo**.—Cathy Lu

### HOW-TOS: The Spy Cam

It's funny watching my coworkers communicate via the **iSight (with iChat AV)** instead of just turning around to talk, but Chris Barylack showed me how to use it to **spy** on my pets while I'm at work—you can too. We'll also show you how to **customize disc images** and **compile Unix apps**.—Kris Fong

### REVIEWS: Lookin' Good

We've got pro artists playing with **plug-ins** for After Effects and Photoshop—and we'll see how good their creations look through the first **multimedia projector** we've ever reviewed, Epson's Powerlite S1, plus print up postcard-size images on Canon's postcard-size CP 300 **photo printer**.—Niko Coucouvanis

### NEWS: HP's Challenge

Hewlett-Packard claims its new **consumer lineup** will rival Apple's. We take a closer look. We'll also tell you all about the differences between all those **media cards**, and how to **sync files** using the Terminal. Oh, and we tracked down a **spam-free mail service**. Seriously.—Narasu Rebbapragada

## STAFF RANTS

**Q:** Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most?



**Narasu Rebbapragada** SCAREDY EDITOR  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? Insurance companies. After all, how can you trust an entity that makes its living on fear and insecurity?



**Niko Coucouvanis** CLOSET METROSEXUAL  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? Being a sensitive, in-touch-with-my-soft-side guy in this cold, insensitive world, I distrust everyone equally.



**Kris Fong** PRIVATE SNOOP  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? The government. Who else do you think ultimately influences the merchandise in stores, money in banks, and bad toupees at insurance companies?



**Cathy Lu** HIGHLY DEDUCTIBLE  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? Insurance companies—although I have to admit their customer service is superior to what you get at the DMV or even Nordstrom's shoe department.



**Jenifer Morgan** MISS UNDERSTANDING  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? Banks. Where the wild thyme grows. Horribly allergic to the stuff. Oh, and stores. Of ammunition. One match, and kaboom!



**Chris Imlay** HAPPY CAMPER  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? I fully trust in the benevolence of all major decision-making entities in our society, thus disregarding the entirety of human history. Ignorance is bliss!



**Peter Marshutz** INFORMED PARANOIAC  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? The government—of course—since it has a history of ignoring that little ol' thing called the Bill of Rights to accommodate its political agenda.



**Max** OPEN BOOK  
Stores, banks, insurance companies, the government—which do you mistrust most? Since I lead a pure and blameless 2D life, I have nothing to hide and no one to fear—that is, no one outside Redmond, Washington.





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# SPIN DIFFERENT

Electronica Bands Play Macs Onstage

Hundreds of sweaty club kids cheer in anticipation as progressive trance pioneer BT runs onstage, clutching his 1GHz PowerBook G4 plastered with stickers the way a punk rocker's guitar might be. He flips up the lid and puts his fingers on the keyboard, and the music starts. The kids scream with approval, fists raised, cell phones transmitting the moment.

That's the scene at the modern music fest, where Macs and iPods are taking center stage. Check out this enterprising group of electronica artists, who are showing the world that Macs are more than mere computers—they're instruments.—*Narasu Rebbapragada*

**"What holds us back is having the equipment to play. Two iPods, I can carry all the time."—DJ Richie Hawtin**



## RICHIE HAWTIN

Apple 30GB iPod (\$499, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))  
Stanton Magnetic's Final Scratch (\$499 street, [www.finalscratch.com](http://www.finalscratch.com))

Revered DJ Richie Hawtin (<http://m-nus.com>), aka Plastikman, wowed crazed fans and confused shoppers when he showed up at Apple's New York City SOHO store to spin a two-hour set on two 30GB iPods fed into a two-channel mixer.

Hawtin called the experience a little strange but very, very cool. "The iPod really comes down to using your thumbs," he says, "clicking through and finding your tracks." DJing using vinyl, on the other hand, is more of a finger exercise.

Hawtin's iPods quickly cued up music, and the responsive pause and play buttons started and stopped songs on command. The iPod, however, needs two major features before it can become a mainstay in the DJ's arsenal: pitch control for beat-matching tracks, and



**RICHIE HAWTIN** DJs at Apple's New York City SOHO store on two 30GB iPods and a two-channel mixer.



sensitive scrubbing for finding just the right entry point in a song. With these tools, the iPod could liberate the DJ. "What holds us back is having the equipment to play," Hawtin says. "Two iPods, I can carry all the time."

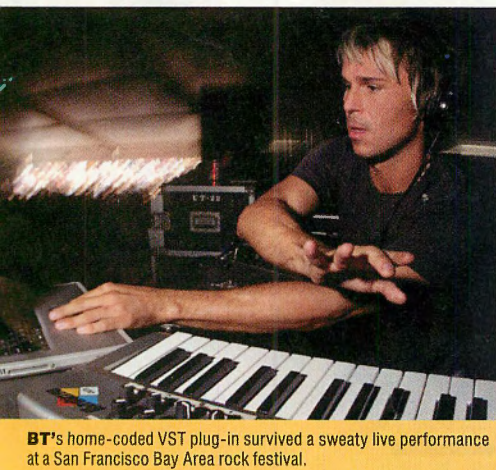
Hawtin is no stranger to digital DJing. For years he has been using Stanton Magnetics' Final Scratch, a software-hardware combo that lets DJs hitch a laptop to their turntables and effectively spin and mix their digital tracks. Stanton Magnetics, partnered with Native Instruments, has recently released a Mac OS X version of Final Scratch (see *Reviews*, Sep/03, p50).

## BT

Ableton Live (\$399, [www.ableton.com](http://www.ableton.com))  
Propellerhead Software Reason (\$449, [www.propellerheads.se](http://www.propellerheads.se))

Electronica composer and DJ BT ([www.btmusic.com](http://www.btmusic.com)) began his set with a tricked-out version of Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. Woven between the famed refrain "We don't need no education" were loops from breakbeat artists Meat Katie and Dylan Rhymes, some high-pass filtered 120KHz bass, some kick drum, and BT's own bass track.

Thanks to his TiBook running Ableton's Live beat-sequencing software and Propellerhead's Reason software synth, BT could put that mix together pretty much on the spot. "With this I'm remixing music live onstage," he said.



BT's home-coded VST plug-in survived a sweaty live performance at a San Francisco Bay Area rock festival.



VENUS HUM is part DJ, part garage band, and all PowerBook G4. The trio mixes guitar (played by Tony Miracle), vocals, and keyboards with loops sequenced in Ableton Live.

"You can completely screw up—but that's what makes it so exciting."

Also exciting was the debut of his hand-crafted, C-coded VST plug-in. Called the *stutter edit*, it circumvents hours of manual labor and instantly produces a brash, slamming breakdown.

## VENUS HUM

Ableton Live (\$399, [www.ableton.com](http://www.ableton.com))  
eMagic Logic Audio (\$699, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))  
Cycling 74 Pluggo (\$199, [www.cycling74.com](http://www.cycling74.com))

Venus Hum ([www.venushum.com](http://www.venushum.com)) bridges the gap between garage band and DJ, giving an organic warmth to synthesized beats.

Two PowerBook G4s running Ableton Live are the electronic glue binding Annette Strean's soulful voice (a cross between Julie Andrews's and Bjork's), Kip Kubin's synths, and Tony Miracle's guitar.

At some shows Miracle uses nothing but his guitar and his Mac, trading in his amps and pedals for eMagic's Logic and Cycling 74's Pluggo suite of audio plug-ins. "I can get some crazy sounds that kind of sound like a guitar and kind of sound like a synth, but really sound like neither," says Miracle.

Miracle then passes off his music to Kubin, who mixes it with audio from his keyboards and G4 running Live—adding filters, delay, musical and percussive elements, and altered samples of Strean's voice in a short, staccato twang.



ANNA SITKO AND STACEY VAN BUSKIRK soothe weary clubgoers with music, projections, and PowerBook G3s.

## ANNA SITKO (DJ ANON) AND STACEY VAN BUSKIRK

Ableton Live (\$399, [www.ableton.com](http://www.ableton.com))  
U & I Software's Videodelic (\$249, [www.uisoftware.com](http://www.uisoftware.com))

When 12,000 clubbers attending a San Francisco rave needed a break, they headed to Anna and Stacey's chill room with its ambient mix of music, visual art, and Macs.

Music and visual art can't be separated, they say, and neither can the artists—particularly because they're joined together by two respective PowerBook G3s with matching AudioSport Quattro USB interfaces.

Sitko uses Ableton Live to mix and match tracks, which she then sends to Van Buskirk. Van Buskirk uses that music to drive the movement of her own abstract visuals, created in Photoshop and animated by U & I Software's Videodelic software.





## DROOLWORTHY

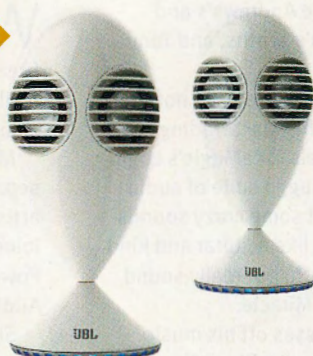
Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On

## ← Slick, Slim PDA Phone

Cell phone-PDA hybrids have come a long way. Now in its second generation, the **Treo 600 Smartphone** (\$399 estimate, [www.handspring.com](http://www.handspring.com)) gives you a Palm OS 5 organizer inside a cell phone-size device. The Treo 600 includes a fast ARM processor, a built-in digital camera, built-in MMC and SD expansion slots, and a new Web browser. It should support both GSM- and CDMA-based services by the time you read this.—NR

## Space-age Speakers →

Surround your Mac with the **JBL Encounter 5.1** (\$399.95, [www.harman-multimedia.com](http://www.harman-multimedia.com)) due out in November. This five-speaker, 200-watt subwoofer set has a volume control that literally goes up to 11. You'll need a sound card like M-Audio's Revolution 7.1 (\$119.95, [www.midiman.net](http://www.midiman.net)) to enjoy the Encounter 5.1, but a 2.1 version will be available for \$299.95 in December 2003.—NR





# NEW EIGHT-COLOR INKJET

HP Adds More Gray to Photo Printer's Palette

Hewlett-Packard leapfrogs Epson's seven-color Stylus Photo 2200 inkjet printer by introducing the eight-color Photosmart 7960 photo printer, due out in mid September.

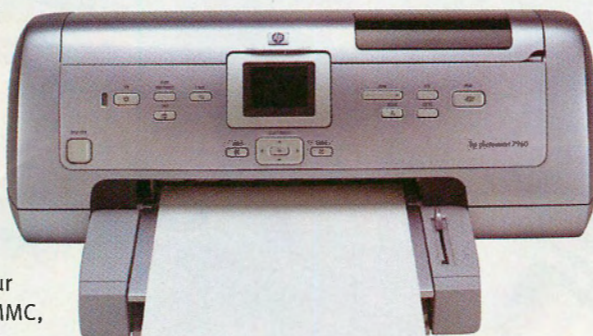
In addition to the standard six-color combo of cyan, light cyan, magenta, light magenta, yellow, and black inks, you get three more ink cartridges: two shades of gray and another black ink. (Yes, this totals nine cartridges, but HP isn't counting the black twice.)

This USB printer can also print directly from your camera's CompactFlash, MMC, Secure Digital, SmartMedia, Sony Memory Stick, and xD cards with the aid of its 2.5-inch

LCD. Unlike the Epson 2200, the HP 7960 can't print on wide-format media, but it will print borderless on up to 8.5-by-11-inch paper.—*NR*

## Photosmart 7960

Price: \$299  
Available: September 2003  
Company: Hewlett-Packard  
[www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)



HP's new eight-color photo printer gives you extra gray and black inks for richer black-and-white prints.

## "Hypnotically encased iMacs trick unsuspecting computer users into accepting Darwinism."

—THE ANTI-DARWIN WEB SITE, OBJECTIVE: CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES  
([HTTP://OBJECTIVE.JESSUAVE.US/PROPAGANDA.HTML](http://OBJECTIVE.JESSUAVE.US/PROPAGANDA.HTML)), EXPLAINS HOW APPLE PREACHES EVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA BY BASING MAC OS X ON DARWIN OPEN-SOURCE CODE.

## SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

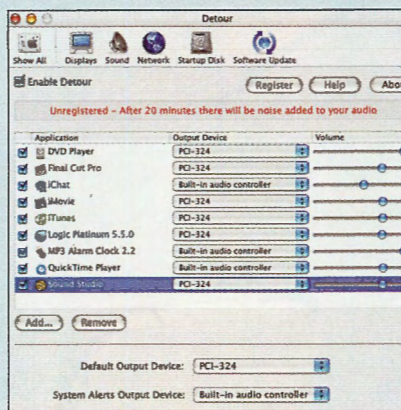
### DETOUR

Rogue Amoeba [www.rogueamoeba.com](http://www.rogueamoeba.com) \$12

Detour is the smart way to control the cacophony of sounds running around your Mac, allowing you to route audio from any application to any output. You can blast your MP3s through your stereo system, while playing your system alerts discreetly through your Mac's built-in speakers. Even without multiple audio outputs, you can still set the volume of individual apps, so your iChat alerts won't jolt



you out of your chair when you're quietly playing Mozart's *Minor String Quintet* in



Detour is an audio traffic controller for your Mac.

iTunes. Detour requires Mac OS 10.2 or later.—*Andrew Tokuda*

## NEWS OF THE MONTH

### DUTCH CONSUMER GROUP CANCELS EPSON BOYCOTT

This summer, the Dutch Consumer Association urged consumers to boycott Epson inkjet printers, claiming that because Epson's ink cartridges disable printing before the cartridge is completely empty, Epson was charging consumers for ink they couldn't use.

False alarm. Epson responded with a Dutch media blitz to explain that although its printers do stop printing when ink reserves are low, the shutdown is intentional, and is designed to prevent harmful air bubbles from entering the ink-delivery system and causing damage to the permanent printhead. The Dutch group immediately cancelled the boycott.

### THE APPLE-ADOBE VIDEO WAR

Apple wants your copy of Premiere. If you send in the install CD of Adobe's video-editing application, Apple will give you a brand-new copy of Final Cut Express. The offer is good until September 20, 2003.

The announcement came shortly after Adobe announced it would discontinue development of Premiere for the Mac. Adobe also just announced a new Mac version of its After Effects compositing app (\$699, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)), due out this August.

### ENTOURAGE GETS EXCHANGE SUPPORT

Microsoft ([www.microsoft.com/mac](http://www.microsoft.com/mac)) began offering Exchange support this August for its Entourage X email and PIM app. The Exchange messaging communications server lets Entourage users communicate with their Outlook-using PC brethren for group emailing, messaging, and calendaring—giving them the privilege of checking coworkers' calendars and scheduling meetings in their spare time.



# iPOD STYLE

## Fashion for Your Music

Carrying your iPod in your crumb-encrusted pocket is like wrapping a supermodel in burlap. Check out these duds worthy of your prized player.—NR



**1** Coach Leather MP3 Player Case

[www.coach.com](http://www.coach.com) \$68

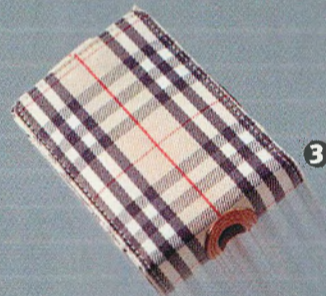
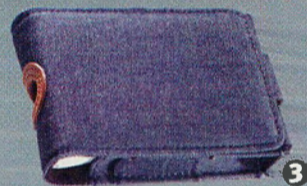
From the prime purveyors of casual chic, these red and black calfskin cases comes with an 8.5-inch strap for those who don't go anywhere without a purse. (Yes, it works as a man-purse too.)



**2** Timbuk2 iPod/PDA Case

[www.timbuk2.com](http://www.timbuk2.com) \$20

Timbuk2, the brand behind the bike-messenger bag craze, designed this water-resistant nylon case to attach to a shoulder strap or belt. It comes in black, blue, silver, and red.





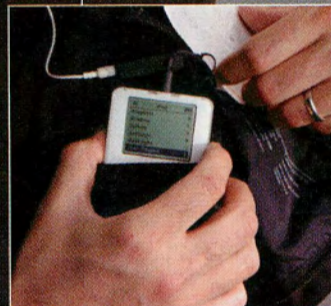
**3 XtremeMac Xtra iPod Case**  
[www.xtrememac.com](http://www.xtrememac.com) \$9.95  
Available in classic black leather, faux Burberry, camouflage, and more, these cases are made only for older iPods that have FireWire ports on top. Not all styles are always immediately available.

**4 Speck Products iPod Skin**  
[www.speckproducts.com](http://www.speckproducts.com)  
\$18.95  
This form-fitting, rubberized, translucent-plastic sheath makes it look like you wrapped your iPod in a fruit roll.

**5 Felicidade Groove Bag Triplet Speaker Purse**  
[www.drbott.com](http://www.drbott.com) \$144.95  
Call it the ghetto blaster for the new millennium or the purse that Agent 99 wishes she had. Either way, this pleather bag comes with built-in speakers that hook into the iPod's headphone port.



**Burton AMP Jacket**  
[www.burton.com](http://www.burton.com) \$499  
Steve Jobs showed this off at the January 2003 Expo keynote address. Just put your iPod in the chest pocket of this black Goretex jacket and use the soft control pad on the arm to navigate your tunes.







## MOVE OVER, EVERQUEST, THE WORLD OF WARCRAFT COMETH

Blizzard Announces Its First MMORPG

Based on the wildly popular WarCraft series, Blizzard's first massively multiplayer online role-playing game, World of WarCraft, is on its way. Explore Azeroth in the

### World of WarCraft

Price TBA

Available End of 2003 (estimate)

Blizzard Entertainment  
www.blizzard.com

familiar lands of Westfall, Duskwood, and Dun Morogh four years after events



The WarCraft world goes online.

in WarCraft III, as you play a Human, Dwarf, Orc, Tauren (Minotaur), or Nightelf. With a rich story line, flexible rewards system, and cool monsters, World of WarCraft will be an endless source of fun for both hard-core and casual players.—*Matt Osborn*

## DAWN OF ACES III

Be a World War I Ace

Dawn of Aces III from iEntertainment is the next installment in the Total Sims series of WWI and WWII massively multiplayer online war games. Just as in Dawn of Aces II, you dogfight over true-to-life terrain in WWI biplanes made of wood,

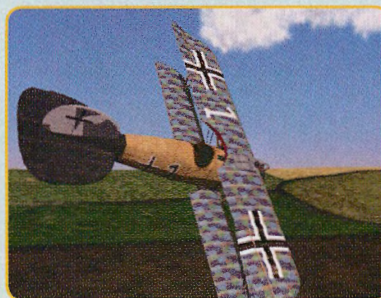
### Dawn of Aces III

Price \$14.95 per month for online play

Available Now (open beta)

iEntertainment  
www.totalsims.com

wire, and fabric with seven new airplanes and enhancements. You can play Dawn of Aces III offline for free.—*MO*



Dogfight WWI-style online in Dawn of Aces III.

## WOLVERINE'S REVENGE HITS THE MAC

X-Men–Style Adamantium and Attitude

On the heels of the blockbuster hit X2, Aspyr brings you Wolverine's Revenge. In this six-level-deep action-adventure title, Wolverine—the rebellious X-Man with the indestructible adamantium skeleton—has 48 hours to return to Alkali Lake and save himself from the deadly X-Virus that infects him.

With arcade-style flips, blocks, and combos at his disposal, Wolverine also relies on his mutant accelerated healing and senses to battle popular X-Men characters. Mark Hamill (of *Corvette Summer*, *Batman: Mask of the Phantasm*, and a moderately successful cult series called *Star Wars*) stars as the voice of Wolverine, and



The X-Men's Wolverine is back to avenge his past.

Patrick "Jean-Luc" Stewart reprises his role as Professor Xavier.—*MO*

### Wolverine's Revenge

Price \$49.99

Available September 2003

Aspyr  
www.aspyr.com

## WARRIOR KINGS FIGHT BACK

New 3D Real-Time Strategy Game

If you've played through WarCraft III and Myth III real-time strategy war games, check out Feral Interactive's Warrior Kings, starring Artos—a

### Warrior Kings

Price \$50

Available August 2003

Feral Interactive  
www.feral.co.uk

dashing young man who aims to avenge his father, an unjustly

executed duke, and take back his lands. Choose between a Pagan (demons), Imperial (church), or Renaissance (science) army to seize castles and wage war. Force your peasants to gather

resources as you train infantry and cavalry. Employ spies, monks, or merchants for specialized missions.



Warrior Kings has stunning graphics and full-screen antialiasing.

The lush 3D terrain is beautiful, and you can use its hills and valleys to fine-tune your strategy and outflank opponents. Up to eight players can play via LAN or GameRanger's online service.—*MO*



# BUY 1, GET 4 FREE\*



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## TTP: 4 TECHTOOL PRO 4

The ultimate computer repair utility for the Macintosh



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WE PIT THE TWO **TOP**  
**CONTENDERS** IN EACH  
MAC PRODUCT CATEGORY  
**AGAINST ONE OTHER.**  
ONE WINS. ONE LOSES.  
LIFE'S LIKE THAT.

# MAC SOFTWARE SLUGFEST

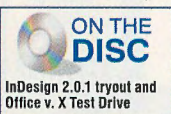
**Q** uark or InDesign? Final Cut or Avid Xpress?  
Keynote or PowerPoint? Rock or Country?  
These are the questions that weigh on Mac  
users' minds.

Well, no longer. We've got it all figured out.

We went through all the classic matchups, tested products until we were blue in the fingers, investigated technologies, had heated and profound debates ("How could you possibly think gummi *bears* are better than gummi *worms*?"), then picked our favorites in every major category from page layout to video editing, from email to, yes, gummi candy.

There's one notable exception: We didn't pick a winner in the long-running Macromedia FreeHand vs. Adobe Illustrator deathmatch—yet. Since FreeHand is one version ahead of Illustrator, and the smart money is betting on an Illustrator response soon, we didn't think a matchup would be fair at this time. Fun, maybe, but not fair—we've got our scruples.

So whether you're trying to decide between two top apps in a product category or you're dedicated to one app and curious about how the other half lives, we're here to help. That's what friends are for.



★ MAIN

# BAT

# CEN

# APP

ONE ON ONE | HEAD

SOFTWARE VS SOFTWARE

★ ONE WINNER



EVENT ★

# TITLE THE TURY VS APP

TO HEAD | MANO A MANO

★ HARDWARE VS HARDWARE

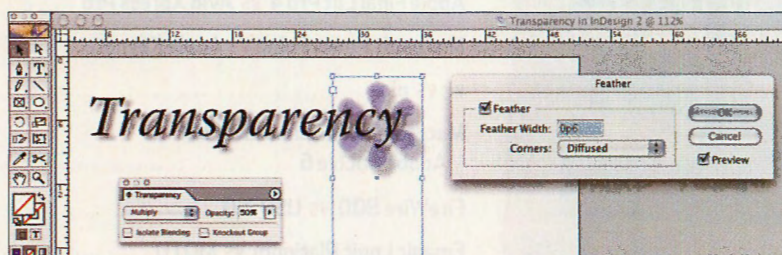
I ONE LOSES ★

Adobe InDesign 2 <b>VS</b> QuarkXPress 6 .....	20
Cable <b>VS</b> DSL .....	20
Apple Final Cut Pro 4 <b>VS</b> Avid Xpress Pro .....	21
Microsoft PowerPoint <b>VS</b> Apple Keynote .....	22
vi <b>VS</b> pico .....	22
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX <b>VS</b> Adobe GoLive 6 .....	23
FireWire 800 <b>VS</b> USB 2.0 .....	24
Emagic Logic Platinum <b>VS</b> MOTU Digital Performer 4 .....	25
PocketPC <b>VS</b> Palm OS .....	26
Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5 <b>VS</b> MYOB AccountEdge .....	26
Microsoft Entourage <b>VS</b> Apple Mail, Address Book, and iCal .....	28
Hub <b>VS</b> Switch .....	28
Discreet Cleaner <b>VS</b> Apple Compressor .....	29
Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer <b>VS</b> Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4 .....	30





# Adobe InDesign 2 vs QuarkXPress 6



Since the early 1990s, QuarkXPress has reigned as the unchallenged ruler of page-layout software. Recently, however, a serious contender emerged: Adobe InDesign. But now that the long-awaited Mac OS X-compatible QuarkXPress 6 has arrived, does InDesign 2 have what it takes to usurp the monarchy? Or is it more pretender than contender?

QuarkXPress has a lot going for it—not least of which is its momentum. It's used everywhere, it's been around forever, and it has earned a reputation for being reliable come print time. It has a broad tool set that includes solid typographic, page-layout, and long-document features that make it versatile enough to produce everything from one-page ads to thousand-page books.

Quark also offers several features InDesign doesn't, such as multiple-ink colors, a dashes and stripes editor, and the ability to create custom kerning and tracking tables for fonts. It also has superior drawing features—merge,

split, and change-shape options, for example—and several Web-layout tools, including cascading menus, rollovers, form elements, and the ability to combine print and Web layouts in one project file.

QuarkXPress 6 also has new tools: the option to synchronize repeatedly used text, high-resolution display of imported pictures, and the ability to export PDFs without using Acrobat Distiller. (For more on Quark 6, see *Reviews*, Sept/03, p42).

It takes a lot to stop a juggernaut—and InDesign 2 has a lot. Its haymaker is its transparency capabilities, which provide soft drop shadows, feathered edges, blending modes, and opacity. InDesign also outpaces QuarkXPress in typography, with features like OpenType support, optical kerning, paragraph-based text composition, and optical margin alignment for setting

hanging punctuation (say, placing quote marks outside the text margin). InDesign's table features also beat the pants off Quark's: You can import formatted Word and Excel tables and create multipage tables, and there are a variety of versatile formatting options for cells, rows, and columns.

Other InDesign bonuses include multilingual support (you can check spelling and hyphenate in 12 languages using any of 20 dictionaries), tight integration with other Adobe graphics applications, multicolor gradients, greater range (such as 5 to 4,000 percent magnification) and greater precision (.001-em increments for text settings) in many options, and robust PDF support.

In a head-to-head feature battle, InDesign 2 is the clear winner. It offers

most of the major features that are available in QuarkXPress 6 and many that aren't. That said, there are a lot of satisfied QuarkXPress 3, 4, and 5 users who will be perfectly happy with QuarkXPress 6, if only because it runs natively in Mac OS X. Still, we choose InDesign's superior feature set over the QuarkXPress status quo.—*John Cruise*

## Boxers vs Briefs

Hands down, boxers. Hmm, that doesn't sound right, but for roominess, swing-in-the-breeze comfort, and versatility (that is, with pants or pantless), you can't beat boxers. **Winner: Boxers**

## Cable vs DSL

Modems just don't cut it anymore. The big question is no longer "Dial-up or broadband?" but rather "Cable or DSL?"

A cable modem uses the same cable infrastructure as that overpriced service that brings *American Idol* into your home. It's also serviced by the same provider: If you have good cable-TV service, you'll probably get good cable-Internet service.

DSL, on the other hand, is brought to you over your phone lines. Unlike the providers of cable Internet access, many third-party DSL companies use your local phone company's lines to offer their service. Because of the competition, you can often find excellent customer service, such as that offered by Speakeasy.net. Costs and installation hassles are comparable, although cable requires a hefty coaxial cable.

### Winner: Adobe InDesign 2

**Why:** InDesign has superior typographic and design features—and Quark's customer service is lousy.

### Adobe InDesign 2

↑ Transparency, typography, and table features. Support for multiple languages. Integration with other Adobe apps.

↓ A somewhat clunky interface. A few text-related limitations. Slow.

➤ \$699, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

### QuarkXPress 6

↑ Reliable performance and printing. Multiple-ink colors. Dashes And Stripes editor. Industrywide acceptance.

↓ Little improvement to features in recent versions. No transparency. Expensive.

➤ \$1,045, [www.quark.com](http://www.quark.com)





Avid Xpress Pro does lots of things well, but its fast and easy color-correction tools stand out especially.

Avid's Mojo Digital Nonlinear Accelerator box (\$1,695), and Xpress Pro can also handle uncompressed SD video (not HD), but it captures and records via analog component connectors, so uncompressed video may suffer from more signal noise than in an all-digital Final Cut setup.

As for overall workflow, Final Cut scores with its intuitive interface. Avid uses interface elements called *modes* to get things done—for example, there's a mode for trimming clips and a mode for setting keyframes. In Final Cut, you do most of your work right from the timeline. It's a

## Apple Final Cut Pro 4 vs Avid Xpress Pro

If you're looking for a heavyweight video editor, Final Cut Pro 4 and Avid Xpress Pro are your go-to options. Both programs pack plenty of firepower: great media management, specialized editing tools, real-time-rendered effects, color correction, and more. Depending on the nature of your work, some key differences will give one editor an edge over the other.

The differences start with supported media formats. Both apps do digital video, and both have their own proprietary supercompressed format that's great for small laptop hard drives. But with the right \$2,250-and-up expansion card—and there are tons of different types from tons of different companies—Final Cut can handle both uncompressed SD (standard definition) and HD (high definition) video. Add

very fast, visual way to work, and something you'll appreciate day-to-day. Final Cut 4 also lets you customize all your keyboard shortcuts and turn any function into window icons so they're just a click away.

Both programs render most effects in real time—for example, a video clip with a superimposed title and color correction (the more effects are playing at once, the lower your playback quality). Final Cut 4 can play real-time renders straight out to a TV via FireWire, but depending on your Mac's speed, playback may be a bit jerky or have a lower



Final Cut Pro 4 adds a real-time audio mixer.

Speeds are also comparable—real speeds, that is, not advertised peak rates. But keep in mind that you're sharing the cable service with a number of users in the same area, while your DSL connection is yours and yours alone. This shared-bandwidth arrangement is rarely a problem, since cable has more than enough oomph to support multiple users. However, if someone on your block is serving a high-volume Web site or if everyone's watching the latest lingerie rollout at Victoria's Secret, you'll notice a slowdown. One additional drawback to the shared-bandwidth scheme is the increased possibility of unscrupulous neighbors hacking into your Mac or LAN.

In many locations, the choice is made for you as only one option is available. All things being equal, we recommend DSL for its nonshared, more secure technology.—Rik Myslewski

### Winner: DSL

**Why:** With DSL, you don't have to share a connection with others in your neighborhood. That said, the most important factors are the reliability of your provider and its customer service.

resolution. Avid needs the Mojo box for the same functionality, but TV playback is smoother for single-effect video streams.

Both systems handle color correction very well, but Avid makes things a bit easier, thanks to its three shot views (previous, current, and next shot, instead of Final Cut's two-shot view) and a few automation tools that can quickly correct or match colors. Both apps also include stand-alone programs for creating animated titles, encoding video, and audio editing. Some of the Final Cut apps offer more features; some are easier to use. Plus, Final Cut includes a music-scoring app (Soundtrack, also available as a standalone for \$299, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)) that's not an option in Avid.

One advantage of Xpress is that it fits into the huge world of high-end Avid rigs, which edit the majority of today's major movies, TV shows, and commercials. Xpress Pro shares the same interface as bigger Avid systems, and it reads the same project files, which lets you easily do offline editing on Xpress, ▶



and then rent time on a bigger Avid rig to assemble your online master (if your original media is in a high-end format, such as HD or pure digital tape like DigiBeta, which Xpress can't handle on its own).

#### Winner: Final Cut Pro 4

**Why:** It's neck and neck, but at the end of the day, Final Cut offers more bang for the buck. Simple as that.

#### Apple Final Cut Pro 4

↑ Flexible interface. Support for more high-end media formats. Lower price.

↓ Growing, but not yet a true standard in some pro circles.

➤ \$999, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

#### Avid Xpress Pro

↑ Best-of-show color correction. Compatibility with the larger Avid world.

↓ Less-flexible interface. No support for all-digital uncompressed SD or HD. More expensive.

➤ \$1,695, [www.avid.com](http://www.avid.com)

If this compatibility is important to you, then it's a big score for Xpress. On the other hand, it's getting easier to find high-end Final Cut setups—basically a Mac with expansion cards that allow you to work with uncompressed SD and HD media (usually cheaper to rent than Avids, and you could build your own powerhouse Final Cut rig for fewer bucks too). Still, high-end Avids (which consist of pricey, proprietary Avid hardware and software) are currently easier to find.

So, the verdict? Blow for blow, this brawl goes to Final Cut Pro 4 for its lower price, nimble interface, secondary apps, and support for high-end media formats like HD. But Avid is still a great package, and it comes out ahead if you need to fit into the larger, Avid-dominated world—however long that megabucks world might last.—*Helmut Kobler*

## vi vs pico

**W**hich Unix text editor is superior—vi or pico? Oh, the questions that weigh on Unixheads' minds.

Before we get to it, note that we chose to leave Emacs out of this. Emacs has a difficult learning curve and is definitely *not* for the newbie.

The vi editor comes standard on every Unix distribution, and it only takes about 10 minutes to learn the basics. It does feel archaic, and the fact that you're not in edit mode by default can be a little disconcerting to someone who wants to fire it up and go.

Enter pico—this little editor started life with a text-based mail client called Pine many moons ago, and has survived on its own well enough to be included in the default install of Mac OS X. It is, however, *not* included in every Unix distribution, so if it's the only editor you learn, you may find yourself in a bit of a quandary the next time you stumble onto a FreeBSD system.

That said, pico is great for anyone who doesn't want to spend time looking at documentation. It has a two-line display at the bottom of every screen that shows you all the available major commands. On the negative side, pico has a limited feature set and isn't the greatest tool for C++ programmers.—*Dave Hamilton*

#### Winner: pico

**Why:** It's the easiest to learn of the command-line text editors.

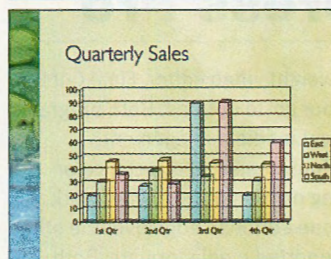
## Microsoft PowerPoint vs Apple Keynote

**I**f your main concerns are ease of use and graphics, Keynote rules. Its one-window interface and contextual Inspector window are intuitive. PowerPoint's interface, though vastly improved in recent years, remains clunky.

Keynote also excels in provided graphics and artful backgrounds. We also love Keynote's 3D slide transitions, which complement the standard 2D transitions. PowerPoint is notorious for its bad 1980s-style graphics, and while

Microsoft recently released new, vastly improved backgrounds, Apple's are still more sophisticated.

Of course, graphics alone do not make a successful presentation application. A key ingredient is integration with the apps you use to create content. Here, PowerPoint has the advantage in that you can copy and paste editable charts and tables from Word and Excel. In Keynote, pasted Word text loses some of its formatting and Excel charts paste in as noneditable images. PowerPoint's built-in chart maker is more robust than



**PowerPoint's graphics (bottom) have come a long way, but we still prefer Keynote's (top).**

Keynote's, but we do like the ability to paste graphics into Keynote tables.

In terms of multimedia capabilities, both apps are mediocre. Apple lets you add QuickTime movies and music to individual slides, but you can't control soundtracks across multiple slides. You can do this in PowerPoint, although the process is convoluted.

Keynote and PowerPoint play nicely together. You can import PowerPoint presentations into Keynote and export Keynote presentations into PowerPoint, though you'll have to make formatting adjustments and reattach your movies. Both apps export to QuickTime format, but only Keynote exports to PDF.

Keynote wins because of its straightforward interface, graphics, and greater variety of export formats.—*Narasu Rebbapragada*

#### Winner: Apple Keynote

**Why:** It's a close call, but Keynote is user-friendlier.

#### Apple Keynote

↑ Great graphics. Easy to use. Variety of export formats.

↓ Less integrated with Office apps.

➤ \$99, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

#### Microsoft PowerPoint

↑ Plays well with Word and Excel. Better charting.

↓ Still-crappy graphics. Expensive.

➤ \$299 (\$399 for Office v. X), [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)





**Dreamweaver is proof positive that Macromedia gets it—the Web, that is.**

more-powerful site-management tools, which provide more link- and file-management options across your site. Performance is a ubiquitous problem: Both apps took a few minutes to import a modest (600-file) Web site on our Dual 1.25GHz Power Mac G4. On a 500MHz G4, both were painfully slow.

When actually building your site, Dreamweaver pulls ahead. Its interface just makes more sense—its handsome icons are more intuitive and placed more sensibly than GoLive's. Both programs have tool tips that pop up a description of the function when you roll over an icon.

GoLive's Hints palette provides further information, but unfortunately doesn't clue you in about where you'll find a particular function. However, GoLive's contextual menu support smokes Dreamweaver's, so Control-clicking to bring up contextual menus is always a good place to start.

Both programs pack so much functionality that they require a staggering array of palettes (called *panels* in Dreamweaver). Fortunately, both use a fully customizable docking scheme whereby you can group palettes together—for example, all of them in one tabbed megapalette. GoLive scores another jab here, supporting Adobe's patented savable workspaces, so you can save as many different custom palette arrangements as you need for different types of work. Dreamweaver saves face by remembering your configuration between sessions and sporting an otherwise-superior panel-management setup, which combines tabbed subpanes in categorical, collapsible panes that stack and dock together.

Dreamweaver has always been the king of code creation, and Macromedia reinforced that by rolling its HomeSite HTML editor into Dreamweaver MX. Interactive code hints and on-the-fly HTML validation are just two of the benefits. GoLive 6 both creates and handles code better than in previous versions, but it still can't touch Dreamweaver in this area. Both programs provide syntax checking and code ▶

## Macromedia Dreamweaver MX vs Adobe GoLive 6

In the world of WYSIWYG Web design and development, there are only two real choices: Adobe GoLive and Macromedia Dreamweaver MX. Both provide the tools for visually mapping out a Web site, designing pages, integrating database content for Web applications (such as interactive forums or e-commerce), and integrated FTP capabilities for getting all your content up on the Web.

To start your Web project, both programs provide assistance in setting up Web specs to follow, remote server information for database connections and the FTP client, and other preliminaries. Both programs also suggest defining a local site at the beginning of a project, where you can save and store files as you build your Web site. Despite having a less-intuitive interface than Dreamweaver, GoLive boasts

**We built this GoLive page by hand. It's not perfect, but Internet Explorer, Safari, and Dreamweaver can read it right.**



## Cheetos Crunchy vs Cheetos Puffs

Although the fake cheese powder tastes pretty much the same on both, the difference comes in texture: Cheetos Crunchy have more grease and crunchiness per square inch—always a winning combo. **Winner: Cheetos Crunchy**





validation for major browsers and Web standards, including XHTML, HTML 3.2, and HTML 4.0, as well as compliance with the accessibility standards set forth by Congress and the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium).

#### Winner: Dreamweaver MX

**Why:** Adobe stalwarts and purely visual designers may disagree, but Dreamweaver's more intuitive interface and better coding tools prevail.

#### Macromedia Dreamweaver MX

↑ Awesome code editor. Superior interface. Extensible architecture means you can customize it out the wazoo.

↓ Needs massive hardware and mega RAM. FTP can be flaky. Weak CSS tools.

➤ \$399, [www.macromedia.com](http://www.macromedia.com)

#### Adobe GoLive 6

↑ Great contextual menus. Somewhat better scripting support.

↓ Unintuitive interface. Less customizable.

Clunky performance on older hardware.

➤ \$399, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Both programs have strengths and weaknesses when it comes to support for DHTML (the hybrid of HTML, JavaScript, and cascading style sheets), responsible for much of the Web's fancily formatted content. GoLive's JavaScript is often criticized as bloated (Adobe counters that it's more widely compatible than tighter, more targeted scripting), but its JavaScript Editor is robust and allows you to save scripts in a dedicated file, thus sparing your Web pages the extra lines of code and load time. Dreamweaver writes tighter code, and although GoLive has more-flexible and -powerful scripting tools, Dreamweaver has a much more open and extensible architecture, so you can add precoded components ranging from, for example, an icon for inserting line breaks to complex JavaScript actions and behaviors. And the real trump card: Dreamweaver has a massive community of rabid users who create and distribute Extensions to perform just about anything

Dreamweaver can't do on its own.

Dreamweaver still owns the Web, and we got a sneak peek at its upcoming MX 2004 update—which should be announced by the time you read this, or we're in big trouble with Macromedia. MX 2004 will bring snappier performance across the board; copy-and-paste import of Excel and Word tables (into a fully formatted table, no less—woo-hoo!); improved FTP service, including the secure SFTP support we've been crying for; and the full-featured CSS support of our dreams. That's all on top of Dreamweaver's already flexible interface. We expect Adobe to update its product soon as well, but even if it does, GoLive will need a total overhaul to compete.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

## American League vs National League

The AL has designated hitters that never catch or throw the ball—hell, they don't even touch it. Their pitchers don't bat. They play in censy ballparks to help their aging DHs hit home runs. AL players are coddled wusses. The NL is real baseball.



**Winner: National League**

## FireWire 800 vs USB 2.0

**F**ireWire and USB are both in their second generations. Apple's original FireWire implementation, now named FireWire 400 (for its 400-Mbps theoretical maximum bandwidth), first appeared on the Blue-and-White G3 in January 1999. USB 1.1, which was limited to a measly 12 Mbps, debuted on the Bondi Blue iMac. For storage needs, there was no comparison between FireWire 400 and USB 1.1—FireWire ruled.

Then USB 2.0 devices began to appear, and USB's potency increased to a full 480 Mbps—slightly, though noticeably, faster than FireWire 400. These two serial storage-connection schemes lived lives of peaceful coexistence for a year or more—FireWire being popular among Mac users and DV camera manufacturers, USB 2.0 finding life on Windows machines.

USB implementations have one major drawback: The USB bus's wimpy 500 milliwatts of power means that most USB drives require external power

supplies. FireWire 400's cable supplies 15 watts, so most FireWire drives don't need a power brick.

Recently, other FireWire 400 improvements, such as printing over FireWire and IP over FireWire, have trickled out.

In January 2003, FireWire 800—at 800 Mbps—appeared on the 17-inch PowerBook G4, and the FireWire-USB debate swung solidly in favor of FireWire. FireWire 800 was Apple's first implementation of the new IEEE-1394b standard (FireWire 400 is IEEE-1394a-compliant). While still supplying 15 watts of power over its cables, FireWire 800 is slated to eventually reach 1.6 Gbps and then 3.2 Gbps.

In different implementations, FireWire 800 can run over both copper and optical cables—even CAT-5e in-the-wall network cabling. Other soon-to-be-released FireWire 800 tricks include the ability to provide full 7.1-channel audio over a FireWire bus—a godsend to anyone whose studio or living room is overrun by audio cables.—*Rik Myslewski*

#### Winner: FireWire 800

**Why:** A no-brainer. FireWire 800 is nearly twice as fast as USB 2.0, can carry enough power on its cable to run big 'n' zippy hard drives, and has a great future.





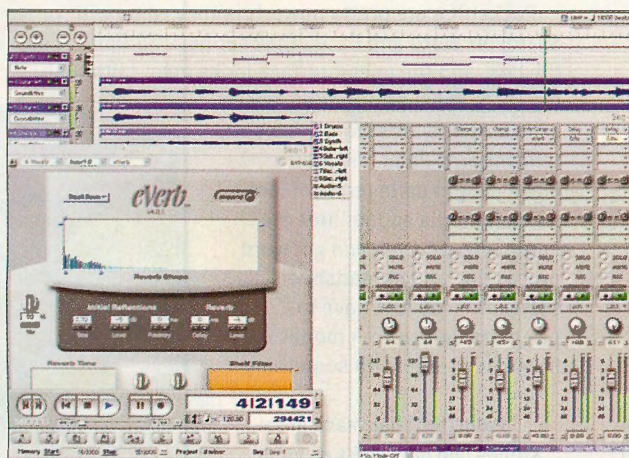


## Emagic Logic Platinum vs MOTU Digital Performer 4

**W**hen it comes to recording music, Macs rule. While Digidesign Pro Tools is king among professional recording studios (though ineligible for this slugfest due to its hardware requirement), two other pro-level audio-recording packages are more than holding their own.

Emagic's Logic Platinum (now owned by Apple) is a favorite among production engineers. Mark of the Unicorn's Digital Performer is favored by musicians and recording engineers. Both let you slice, dice, and julienne audio and MIDI tracks, add effects, automate mixes, and sync tracks with video for postproduction work. So how do they match up?

Logic requires a USB key (damn things) to authenticate and run the software. Digital Performer (DP) did away with its former



Digital Performer looks and functions like your hardware-based recording setup.

Logic looks nice on the surface, but gets complicated as you delve deeper.

dongle and requires only a serial number. Logic's interface is attractive, but DP's is stunning. Its intuitiveness makes it easy to start working immediately—especially if you have any recording experience. Rollover pop-ups let you know what's what, and modules look and function like real hardware. One blemish: DP's tracks aren't continuously numbered; they're broken into numbered subgroups.

Logic, curiously, is an oxymoron; its confusing interface defies what other audio apps—or what common sense—would dictate. For example, arrow keys don't nudge tracks, features are buried in puzzling navigation, and you have to click the stop button twice to go to the start. The Arrange window hijacked our desktop; though we could resize it, parameters were obscured and scrolling didn't pull them into view. Once we began to understand Logic's quirks (thanks to the help of a

Logic expert, not to its feckless manual), things got easier.

Recording tracks is pretty straightforward in both apps. They feature similar editing tools, but we like Logic's approach to waveform editing better—tracks open in their own editing window. However, DP's tools are more musically inclined. For example, when we manufactured a harmony from a vocal track, DP let us transpose by changing the key; Logic had us transpose by moving a blue ball along a 3D axis. On the downside, DP is more processor intensive than Logic.

Recording MIDI parts is routine in both apps, but editing is a mixed bag. Logic has a better-designed notation editor, but it's buggier than a '57 Chevy's grille after a trip down Route 66. DP's editor is weaker in notation features—but still works better than Logic's. Both apps' step editors work great, but DP's keyboard displays depressed keys so you know what keys you've activated—Logic just displays the note.

If you're connecting MIDI or audio hardware, DP only supports Core Audio/MIDI (it's Jaguar-only). Logic supports Core Audio/MIDI hardware in OS X as well as ASIO, Mac AV, and other drivers in Mac OS 9.

Though Logic has long supported VST plug-in effects, only Audio Units (Apple's new audio plug-in architecture) are directly supported in OS X (a third-party ►

### Winner: Digital Performer 4

**Why:** DP feels more real all around. We like not having to think before doing—that's the way it should be with any creative app.

### MOTU Digital Performer 4

↑ Beautiful, intuitive interface. Realistic effects modules. Great tools fix problems quickly.

↓ No continuous track-number listings. Processor intensive.

► \$795, [www.motu.com](http://www.motu.com)

### Emagic Logic Platinum

↑ Glut of tools can fix practically anything. Comes with virtual synths. Efficient.

↓ Confusing interface hijacks the desktop. Audiohead geekery stands in the way of creative process.

► \$699.95, [www.emagic.de](http://www.emagic.de) or [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)



program exists that makes VST work with AU hosts), though you can still use your VST plug-ins in OS 9. DP 4 supports the same proprietary MAS plug-in architecture in OS X as it did in its Classic predecessors, and the free 4.1 update supports Audio Units. Both apps include enough effects to sweeten any mix, but DP's sound better and many are modeled after their real-life hardware counterparts, making them easier to use. To its credit, Logic includes three virtual synths if you lack your own.

Since we don't rely on a third-party control surface (a hardware recording console that controls audio software), we depend on automated mixes to complete projects. Both apps have similar mixing features and both perform admirably. But at the end of the day, we prefer DP's one-click write and read modes to selecting Logic's write and read modes from menus.—*Kris Fong*

## Rock vs Country

One is foisted upon us by money-obsessed marketing types who encourage overproduced musicians to dress ridiculously and brainwash their fans into believing their blindered way of life is the only righteous one. So's the other. But after a thorough analysis of each genre's approach to the mystery of love, we choose anticipation over regret.

**Winner: Rock**



## Intuit QuickBooks Pro 5 vs MYOB AccountEdge

**N**ot too long ago it looked like MYOB's AccountEdge would win the battle for best Mac accounting software just by showing up. That's because its main competitor, Intuit, decided to halt Mac development of its popular QuickBooks software in 1997. But Intuit is back, has released a Mac OS X version of QuickBooks, and is giving MYOB a reason to sweat again.

Both QuickBooks Pro 5 and AccountEdge offer everything you need to keep the books for a small business. They both track orders and invoices, allow you to keep tabs on inventory, and even let you manage your payroll with additional bundled software. Both can give you detailed reports on how your business is doing and help you prepare for the coming tax season.

Part of the reason for QuickBooks' resiliency is the fact that it comes from Intuit, maker of the very popular Quicken. So while QuickBooks Pro 5 is mostly just an OS X-ready transplant of QuickBooks 4, the Intuit interface is familiar to many a Mac user.

So what does AccountEdge hit back with? Broad file-format compatibility, for starters. AccountEdge can understand an assortment of standard online-banking file formats, so you can import transactions directly from a checking or credit-card account. QuickBooks requires you to enter information by hand. Inexcusable. You can also export AccountEdge files to Excel or as raw text.

Additionally, AccountEdge understands the vCard file format, allowing you to drag and drop contact information from an address book into the program. QuickBooks, on

## PocketPC vs Palm OS

**A** year ago, Palm was in the doghouse with us. Its OS and hardware had barely made any advancements in years, and PocketPC, in spite of being a Microsoft product, was really looking slick. Even we were tempted by the dark side.

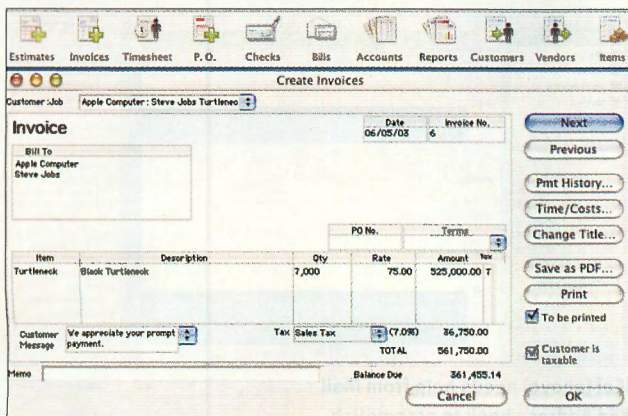
Well, shame on us—Palm has redeemed itself. With Palm OS 5, Graffiti 2, and high-quality products like the Tungsten T and Zire 71 (see *Reviews*, Aug/03, p44), Palm is back, baby. It still lacks some of the power of the PocketPC—oodles of RAM and multitasking, to name two. PocketPCs mostly ship with at least 64MB of memory, while Palm OS handhelds were limited to 16MB, which is not really enough memory for a multimedia PDA like the Zire 71—although you can add more memory via the SD card slot. Palm has recently fixed the problem and can now ship devices with up to 128MB. Of course, the Palm OS is smaller and zippier than PocketPC, so it doesn't need as much memory.

PocketPCs are pretty powerful—they come with versions of Microsoft Word and Excel, they support multimedia files out of the box, and the user interface looks great (although the OS is not superintuitive, which is no surprise—it's from Microsoft, remember?). Palm has pretty much caught up in terms of looks, its multimedia capabilities are improving, and you *can* get word processing and spreadsheet software—you just have to pay extra unless your model happens to ship with something

**Palm (left) has made great strides and now looks as good this year as PocketPC (right).**





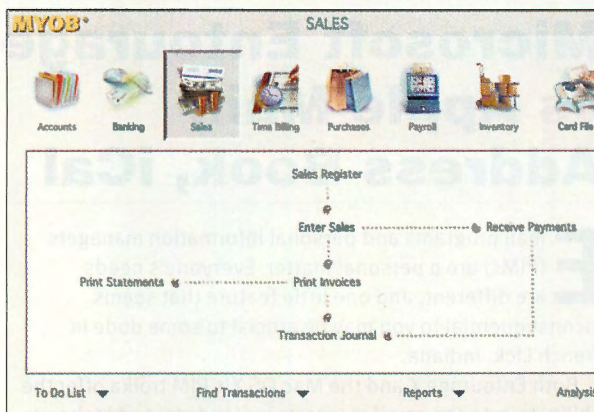


Dang, Steve Jobs sure does owe us a lot for all those turtlenecks. Good thing invoicing and keeping tabs on his order is so easy in QuickBooks Pro 5.

the other hand, doesn't even play nicely with its Windows brethren—if you need to, say, exchange files with your Windows QuickBooks—wielding accountant, you're going to have to use a special converter (available on the Intuit Web site). MYOB, on the other hand, will give your accountant a copy of AccountEdge or Accounting Plus for Windows to make sure you have no problems.

AccountEdge also offers a deep range of specialty features that QuickBooks lacks—the ability to have multiple users, place a photo with a contact, and email invoices to clients from within the program, to name a few.

But—and it's a big *but*—there's a price to pay for these features. AccountEdge has a rigid and often confusing interface, and finding and adjusting things can be difficult. For example, by default the program relies on account numbers rather than names for tracking everything from inventory to jobs. Want to log a sale into Freelance Writing Income? Well, that's income account number 4-1000. This may be fine for



This is MYOB's Sales Command Center. You can register orders, print estimates or invoices, accept payments, and so forth by clicking the appropriate section.

people schooled in accounting, but those who aren't will likely feel flummoxed. You *can* customize AccountEdge to keep track of accounts and items with names instead, but doing so is not intuitive. In fact, we actually *read* the 200-plus-page AccountEdge manual and still found the program confusing—that's no good.

Accounting is painful enough without having to battle your software to make it do what you want. Intuit has a lot of work to do with QuickBooks to get it to gel better with online banking and its Windows versions, as well as catch up to MYOB in terms of features. However, AccountEdge is opaque enough at times to make you reach for a pencil and paper. If your business is big enough and you've got a significant amount of time to spend with AccountEdge, it's probably the way to go. But for those of us who want to get on with our actual business, QuickBooks' ease of use makes it our accounting package of choice.—Robert Capps

#### Winner: QuickBooks Pro 5

**Why:** Although QuickBooks lacks many of AccountEdge's features, it's simply easier to use—but if you're already a savvy accountant, you'll be happier with AccountEdge.

#### Intuit QuickBooks Pro

- ↑ Easy to use. Flexible.
- ↓ No online banking features.
- \$299.95, \$179.95 (upgrade), [www.intuit.com](http://www.intuit.com)

#### MYOB AccountEdge

- ↑ Imports vCards and online banking statements. Tons of specialized features.
- ↓ Difficult to use, especially for nonaccountants.
- \$249, [www.myob.com](http://www.myob.com)

like Documents to Go (\$69.95, [www.dataviz.com](http://www.dataviz.com)), which works great and allows you to view Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files on your Palm device.

But the deciding factor is Mac support. Out of the box, Palm devices work with the Mac seamlessly, whereas PocketPCs don't. To sync your PocketPC to a Mac, you need Pocket Mac (\$69.95, [www.pocketmac.net](http://www.pocketmac.net)) or Missing Sync for PocketPC (\$39.95, [www.markspace.com](http://www.markspace.com)). Missing Sync came out after press time, but we were able to test Pocket Mac 2.0. It's an admirable product, but not what we'd call seamless. Stick with Palm for now.—Cathy Lu

#### Winner: Palm OS

**Why:** Mac support, Mac support, Mac support.

## Heads vs Tails

We were going to pick tails. After all, the bald eagle is much more attractive than George Washington—have you ever really *looked* at that guy? But after flipping a quarter 100 times, we found that heads kicks tail's tail (62-38). And we ain't messing with science. **Winner: Heads**





# Microsoft Entourage vs Apple Mail, Address Book, iCal

Email programs and personal information managers (PIMs) are a personal matter. Everyone's needs are different, and one little feature that seems inconsequential to you may be crucial to some dude in French Lick, Indiana.

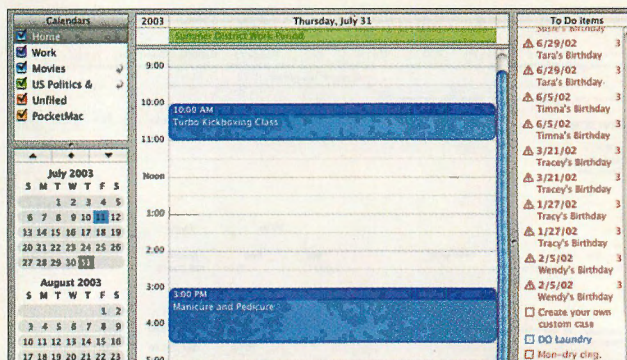
Both Entourage X and the Mac OS X's PIM troika offer the ability to manage email, contacts, calendars, and tasks. Microsoft used to make you buy Office v. X to get Entourage X, but is now selling Entourage on its own for \$99. Mac OS X offers the one-two-three punch of Mail, Address Book, and iCal. The versions we're talking about here come with Jaguar, which costs you \$129.

Entourage's biggest advantage is that you can easily switch between your mail, address book, calendar, notes, and tasks, all from one window. This integration makes it painless to add new email addresses to your address book, set up groups, and invite people in your address book to attend events on your calendar—you don't have to open three different apps in three different windows.

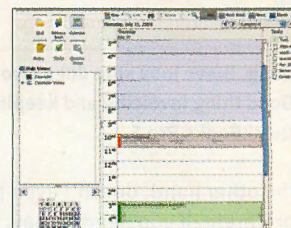
Other Entourage features we prefer include the ability to look up driving directions straight from the address book (just click the little person icon next to an address in the preview pane); the plethora of customizable field options in the address book; the ability to assign colored categories to your contacts, calendar items, and emails; the ease with which you can check different email accounts by customizing your Send & Receive schedule; and support for Microsoft's Exchange Server via a free download that should be out by the time you read this. We also find Entourage

more intuitive—even though Apple supposedly is the king of interface design. Ever try to add new folders (uh, mailboxes) so you can store emails in Mail? Superintuitive it's not.

But before this starts sounding like a Microsoft love fest, Apple's apps do have their bonuses. For one, there's the integration with .Mac. The abilities to sync Address Book with and publish calendars to your .Mac site are killer. Plus, starting with Jaguar, Mail includes a great junk-mail filter that's, as G.W. Bush would say, "darn good." On the other hand, Entourage's junk-mail filter (if you can call it that) is about as pathetic as a flea-bitten, shivering-wet, three-legged puppy—and about as useful at blocking spam. Plus, Mail lets you set up multiple in-boxes so that you



iCal (above) needs help from Mail and Address book to accomplish what Entourage (right) can do all by its lonesome.



can keep your work account's email separate from your home account's. You can do this with Entourage's Switch Identity feature (see "Manage Multiple Accounts in Entourage," Sep/03, p66), but it's a more involved process.

And Panther's on the horizon. It'll add some cool new features to Mail, including the ability to manage messages by threads and the use of draggable objects to represent email addresses—we'll have to wait and see how effectively those features work before pronouncing them well and good. Until then, Entourage is the superior life organizer, and worth the \$99 that Microsoft asks for it. —Cathy Lu

## Mac vs Peecee

One is the world's fastest personal computer and a well-integrated ensemble of high-quality hardware and intuitive

software. The other is a comparatively pokey amalgam of ingredients from oft-questionable suppliers. And no, we're not biased. Not at all. **Winner: Mac**



## Hub vs Switch

If you want to create a wired network, you'll need a *hub*—a small, inexpensive piece of hardware to which you connect Ethernet cables you've strung from each of your Macs and your printer.

There are essentially two types of hubs: standard dumb-as-a-post *passive hubs* (and their somewhat more intelligent brethren, *manageable hubs*, which include a bit of administrative smarts), and *switching hubs*, commonly known as switches.

### Winner: Entourage X

**Why:** Entourage has more features and better customizability, and comes in one window.

#### Microsoft Entourage

↑ More fully featured. All PIM functions in one window. Functions are better integrated with each other.

↓ Inexcusably lousy junk-mail filtering

➤ \$99, [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

#### Apple iApps

↑ Mail has great junk-mail filtering and multiple email account management.

↓ Apps aren't as easy to use as you'd expect. Using three separate applications gets unwieldy.

➤ free, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)









This is what surfing is really about.  
A man, a wave, and a briny deep  
filled with sharks and killer whales.

## Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer vs Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4

One's a bronzed surfer god, the other is a countercultural icon. One of them surfs the mean streets and back alleys, the other surfs through everything Mother Nature can throw at him. But which of these extreme-sports legends will emerge victorious from the video-game arena?

Kelly Slater and Tony Hawk, while they share branding and demographics, are as different from each other as chalk and cheese. Both do their best to capture the essence of their respective sports: Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer is a laid-back, almost sleepily hypnotic simulation of surfing, while Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4 is densely frenetic and varied.

Tony Hawk's fourth game incarnation is a finely tuned,

### Winner: Tony Hawk

**Why:** Although both are fine games, Tony Hawk is simply more addictive and more fun.

#### Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4

↑ Lots of levels, scenarios, missions, and variety. Finely tuned control system.

↓ Frame rate drops at higher resolutions.

➤ \$39.99, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

#### Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer

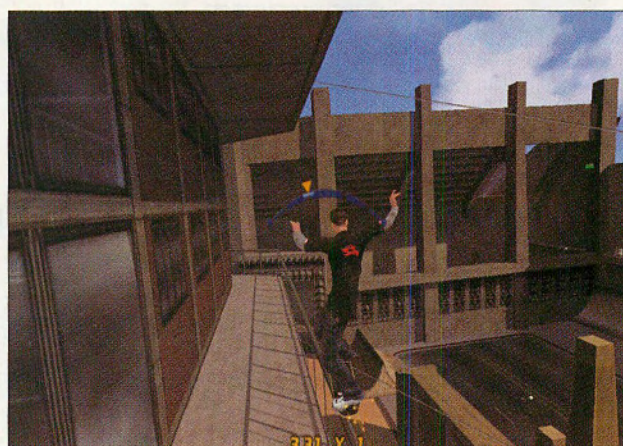
↑ Dreamy wave physics. Absorbing, relaxing gameplay.

↓ Not enough variety in play and environments.

➤ \$39.99, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

mission-based sequel, similar to its predecessors. There are more and bigger levels, better populated with human and vehicular traffic, but the object is the same—you complete missions to open up new levels. If you've played other Tony Hawk games, the sense of déjà vu is strong.

Slater takes the same approach, but the limitations of the sport are evident. You're always surfing on waves, you can't jump over cars, and a wave in Hawaii looks much like a wave in Tahiti. Challenges range from simple point tallies to complex sequences of moves, but again, it's



A vertiginous variation on the tricky art of grinding, courtesy of the legendary Mr. Hawk.

more about capturing the feeling of surfing than about trying to make a race or stunt simulator. Still, Tony Hawk's skate parks aren't filled with sharks and jellyfish, are they?

In the end, though, a winner emerges. Tony Hawk 4, although similar to earlier versions, contains weeks and weeks of addictive gameplay, challenge, and variety. Kelly Slater's Pro Surfer is fun, but it's just too wet and windy. —Frank O'Connor

## Gummi Bear vs Gummi Worm

Tiny teddy bears are sooo cute; worms are, well, wormy. From the cuteness and detail of the bears to their sweet little bite-size heads you can chomp off, the gummi bear is superior in every way.

**Winner: Gummi Bear**





## Steve Jobs vs Bill Gates



Gates ditched Haah-vaad in his junior year to start up Microsoft with pal Paul Allen. That's cool. But he did try to take over the computing world with unfair monopolistic business practices. That's not cool. Jobs founded Apple, left in 1986 to found NeXT (buying Pixar along the way), then rejoined Apple in 1997 and saved the company from impending doom. **Winner: Steve Jobs**

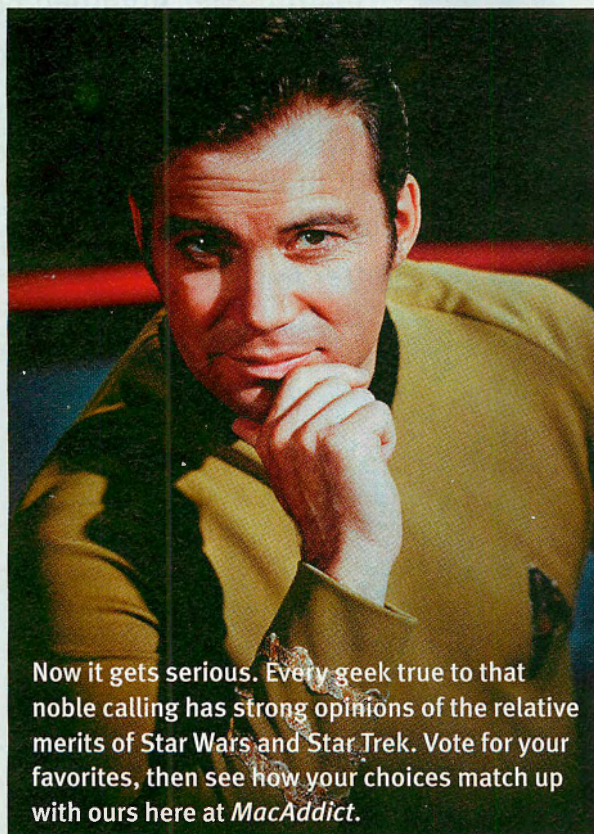


## Bourbon vs Scotch

Only from Kentucky, true bourbon is rich and bracing, not at all smoky or peat-flavored the way Scotch is. The U.K. stuff, however, benefits from a wider range of flavors. But as Cicero said, "De gustibus non est disputandum." Roughly translated: "You can't argue taste." Our taste buds vote American. **Winner: Bourbon**



## Star Wars vs Star Trek



Now it gets serious. Every geek true to that noble calling has strong opinions of the relative merits of Star Wars and Star Trek. Vote for your favorites, then see how your choices match up with ours here at MacAddict.

1	Death Star vs Borg Cube
2	Light saber vs phaser
3	Millennium Falcon vs Enterprise NCC-1701
4	The Force vs the Prime Directive
5	The Rebellion vs the Federation
6	The Gungan vs the Ferengi
7	Ewoks vs Tribbles
8	C-3PO vs Spock
9	R2D2 vs Data
10	Chewbacca vs Montgomery Scott
11	Leia Organa (IV) vs 7 of 9
12	Emperor Palpatine vs Borg Queen
13	Padmé Amidala (I) vs Kathryn Janeway
14	Anakin Skywalker (I) vs Tribbles
15	Luke Skywalker (IV) vs James T. Kirk
16	Luke Skywalker (V) vs Jean-Luc Picard
17	Han Solo vs William Riker
18	Darth Vader vs Khan Noonien Singh
19	Watto vs Neelix
20	Yoda vs Gene Roddenberry

Winners (W = Star Wars, T = Star Trek): 1. W, 2. W, 3. W, 4. W, 5. W, 6. T, 7. T, 8. T, 9. W, 10. W, 11. W, 12. T, 13. T, 14. T, 15. T, 16. W, 17. W, 18. W, 19. T, 20. T. Final score: Star Wars, 11; Star Trek, 9.



The MacAddict editors are still duking it out over who has the cutest pet. Stay tuned.





**Give us a week,** and we'll give you a whole new Mac—one that'll make you more productive than you ever dreamed possible. We show you what products you need and how they work. Follow our tips, and we guarantee that in exactly seven days, your Mac—and your life—will be better for it.

by Cathy Lu



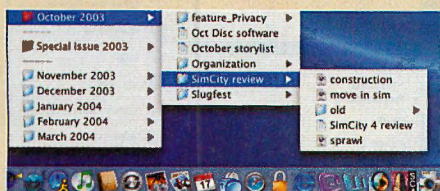


# DAYS

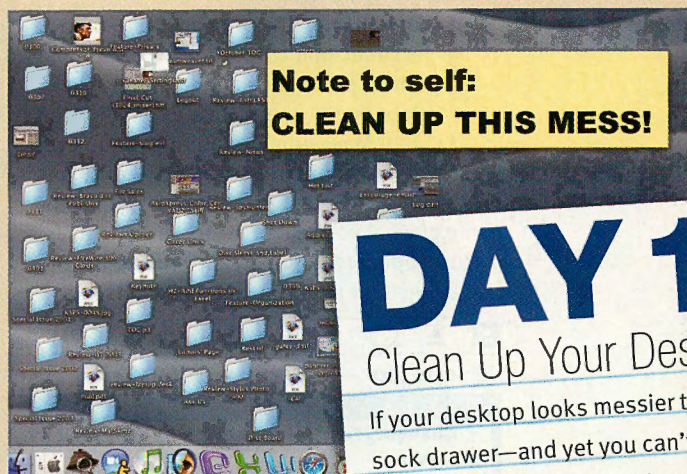
## To An Organized Mac

1 Having a clean desktop doesn't mean your files need be out of mouse's reach. Mac OS X has some great tools—like the **Dock**—to help you stay organized. Right off the bat, the Dock lets you drag folders and files onto it for quick access. Cool, but there aren't many customization options. For example, if you drag a folder onto the Dock, you have to put it to the *right* of the Dock's separator, and the files inside are arranged in alphabetical order when you click and hold an item. A quick tip: If you want a file to rise to the top of the folder's list, put a space in front of its name.

2 If you want more control over folders and files in the Dock, try **DockExtender** (\$20, [www.codetek.com](http://www.codetek.com)). DockExtender lives in System Preferences and lets you put up to 10 different navigable folders on the applications side of the Dock (the more-coveted area *left* of the separator). Via the DockExtender preferences pane, you can customize the folders you put in the Dock. For example, you can store files and folders from multiple locations in one Dock folder; put them in your own chosen order of hierarchy rather than alphabetically; and add dividers between your items so that the list is easier to navigate. Other perks: DockExtender can store AppleScripts, URLs, drives, System Prefs, recent applications, and other items besides just folders and files.



**DOCKEXTENDER** gives you more control over everything in your Dock.



It even lets you to add a customizable menu to your menubar for an alternative way to access your favorite apps and files.

3 If you're a die-hard neatnik or if you used and loved the shareware utility Neatnik on your old

Mac OS 9 or earlier system, you owe it to yourself to check out **FolderControl** for Mac OS X (\$21.95, [www.derman.com](http://www.derman.com)). This nifty utility for the truly anal-retentive user—and you know who you are—gives you an unprecedented amount of control over the organization and location of your Finder windows. FolderControl is especially useful if you prefer to have subfolders open in their own windows—you can use it to tell subfolders exactly where to appear relative to their enclosing folder's windows. Neatness counts—and this app is truly neat.

## DAY 1

### Clean Up Your Desktop

If your desktop looks messier than your sock drawer—and yet you can't help but stuff it with even more folders and files—then you're what we'd call a desktop junkie. You get a high from keeping everything on the desktop because you think that means you can access what you need faster. The problem is that after six months go by, it's impossible to find what you need, and your beautiful Aqua desktop is now an eyesore.

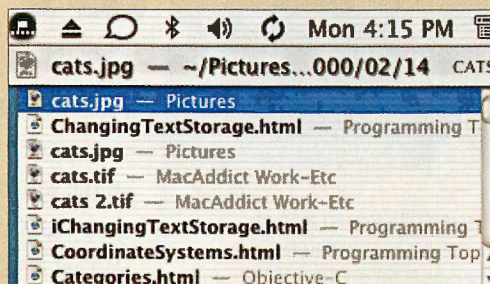


# DAY 2

## Update Your Menubar

Now that you've banished just about all of your desktop folders to the Dock, it's time to make them easier to access. Don't get us wrong: We usually use the Dock when we want to access our most-of-used files, folders, and apps—but sometimes it's nice to have choice.

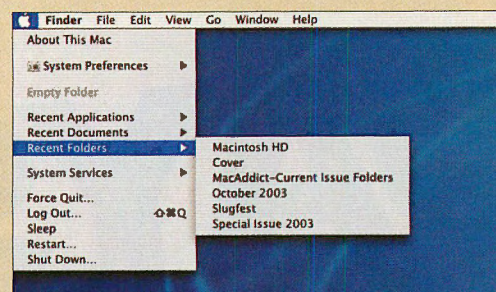
1 Our absolute favorite anything-finder is **LaunchBar** (\$19.95, [www.obdev.at](http://www.obdev.at)), which places itself unobtrusively in your menubar and locates anything on your Mac without requiring you to ever leave your keyboard. Here's how it works: You press Command-spacebar and start typing the name of what you're looking for (a contact, picture, bookmark, folder, app, you name it), and LaunchBar lists your search results in a



Press Command-spacebar to activate **LAUNCHBAR**, and then start typing the name of the item you're looking for.

drop-down menu from its menubar icon. Just scroll to the item you're looking for, and select it—no navigating through the Finder or mousing around your system.

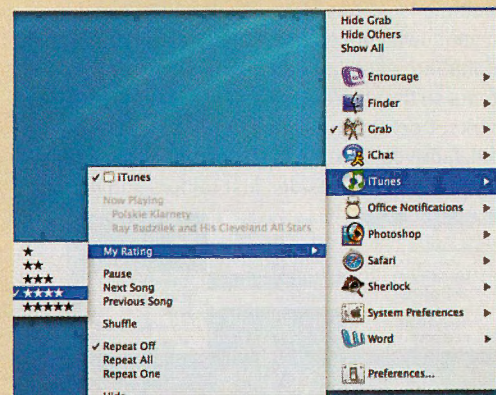
Only thing is you have to train LaunchBar—but just a little. By default, the app only looks for items in certain folders, so if you create your own folders, say, on the hard-drive root level, you need to tell LaunchBar to search those folders as well. To do that, just open the app, go to Configuration > Open Configuration, click the Add button, choose Custom, and then navigate to the folder you want to add to LaunchBar's search repertoire. One warning: Don't tell LaunchBar to search every single folder on your Mac—that'll slow it *waaaaay* down.



To customize your Apple menu, use **FRUITMENU**.

2 Is LaunchBar too complex for you? Well, luckily you have other options—ain't the Mac grand? If you miss the good ol' days of Mac OS 9, there are several apps that can help you bring order to your Mac while indulging a bit of nostalgia. **FruitMenu** (\$10, [www.unsanity.com](http://www.unsanity.com)) lets you customize the Apple menu so that you can bring back the days of Recent Documents, Recent Applications, and Recent Folders. You can even replace the default Shut Down option with one that doesn't ask you if you're *sure* you want to shut down. (Or you can simply hold down the Option key while choosing Shut Down from the Apple menu—but then, where's the nostalgic kick in that?)

3 If you're a fan of the old application-switching menu in the upper-right corner of Mac OS 9's desktop, try **ASM** (\$15, [www.vercruesse.de](http://www.vercruesse.de)). While you can get a similar-type menu using the aforementioned DockExtender, ASM has more features. For one, it lets you customize your menu so that you can add the same functionality you get in Dock contextual menus—for example, via the ASM menubar, you can shuffle to the next song or change a song's rating in iTunes.



**ASM** lets you add a fully featured application-switching menu to your menubar.

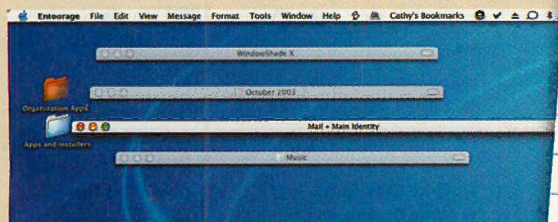


1 What do you do when your desktop isn't big enough to accommodate all your open windows—besides buying a second 23-inch Cinema Display, that is? Simple. Just expand your desktop—virtually. Using **VirtualDesktop** (\$30, [www.codetek.com](http://www.codetek.com)), you can create multiple desktops that you can toggle between for different tasks.

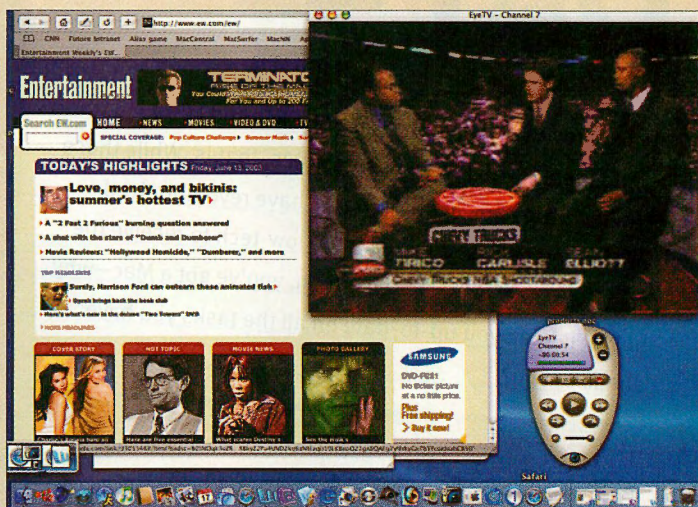
OK, we know the concept's a bit abstruse—as abstruse as the word *abstruse*, in fact—so here's an example: Let's pretend you're trying to finish, oh, an article on Mac organization, but you work better when your EyeTV's on—and you could use a little inspiration from reading *Entertainment Weekly* online first. Using **VirtualDesktop**, you can create an entertainment desktop that holds your EyeTV and Internet browsing window, plus a hard-at-work desktop to quickly switch to when your boss walks by. You can switch between desktops via the Pager palette, which shows you mini versions of your desktops (complete with icons of open windows), and you can drag windows from one desktop to another via the Pager. You can also toggle between desktops—and even specific windows within each desktop—via the Pager or the **VirtualDesktop** menu that automatically installs itself in your menubar.

One warning: Go into the **VirtualDesktop** Preferences, click the Applications tab, and select **Automatically Switch To The Desktop Of The Topmost Window** so that when you click an app in the Dock, it will bring you to the right desktop.

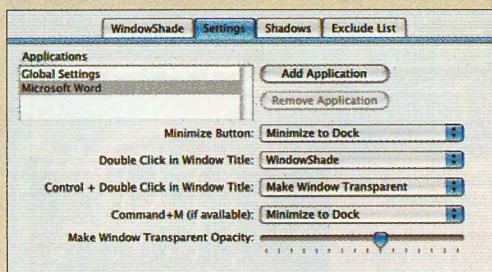
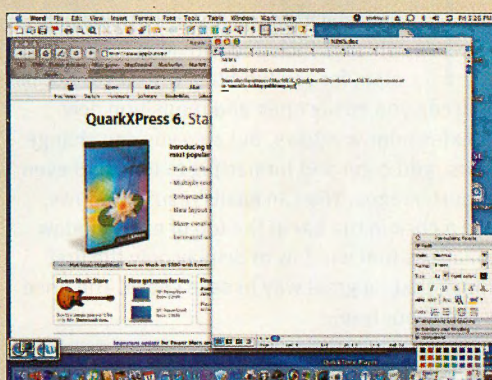
2 If **VirtualDesktop** remains too abstruse for your tastes, Try **WindowShade X** (\$10, [www.unsanity.com](http://www.unsanity.com)), which harkens back to the Mac OS 9 days when you could double-click the title bar of any open window and collapse the window so that all you saw was its title bar. **WindowShade X** brings back this ability, along with other cool tricks. For example, Control-double-click any title bar to make the window transparent so that you can see what's underneath it. Even if you don't find that feature useful, you gotta admit it's nifty.



Use **WINDOWSHADE X** to collapse documents and folders to their title bars.



In **VIRTUAL DESKTOP**, you can view the virtual desktop you want to display when the boss walks by (left) or click in the Pager (lower-left corner) to display the virtual desktop you really want (above).



**WINDOWSHADE X** allows you to set options either globally or app by app.

## DAY 3

### Fight Open Window Madness

You know the problem: You've got a million windows open and you have about as much chance of finding the one you need as you do finding a good thin-crust pizza in San Francisco. (OK, so Amici's is pretty good, but you get our point.) While Apple's next-gen operating system Panther includes a supercool feature called Exposé for dealing with this problem (you just press a key to minimize all open windows to the desktop) not everyone wants to spend \$129 to upgrade.

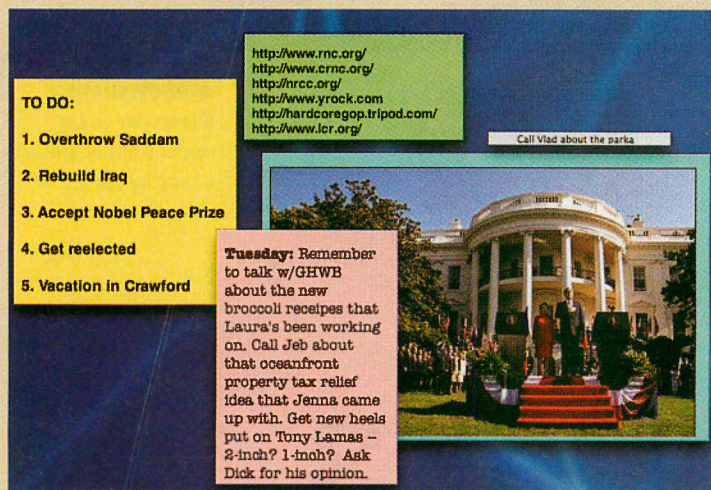


# DAY 4

## Marshal Your Reminders

Walk into any office and you'll see CRTs and LCDs wallpapered with PINs—Post-it Notes, that is. While those familiar little slips of sticky paper have revolutionized written reminders, they're far too low-tech to receive the *MacAddict* seal of approval. C'mon, you've got a Mac—why not let it keep you up-to-date on all the tasks you have ahead of you?

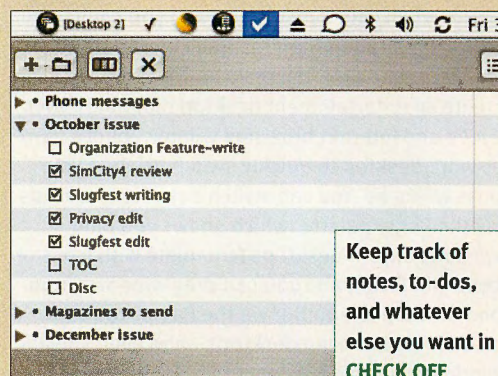
**1** The quickest and easiest way to move your Post-it Notes from analog to digital is through Apple's **Stickies** app, which is included with Mac OS X—and also, for you luddites, with OS 9. Not only can you easily open and reposition new Stickies mini-windows, but also you can change fonts, add color and formatting to text, and even import images. You can easily resize windows, and a click in the bar at the top of each window collapses that window to display only the first line of text—a great way to save space. The price is right too: free.



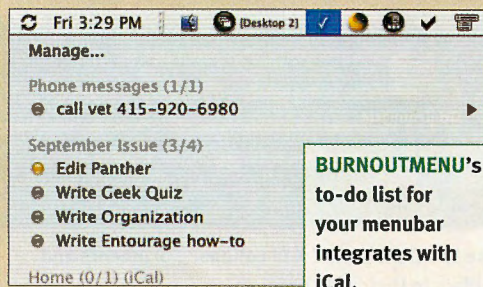
Even the busiest Mac addicts can organize their lives with Apple's **STICKIES** app.

**2** As useful as Stickies are, they have one major problem: Like 12-proof beer, too much of a good thing can actually be a bad thing. Before you know it, you've got Stickies all over your desktop and no idea which of them holds that important phone number you just gotta have *right now*. A great solution is to add a checklist to your menubar. Simply keep any notes you need to

take, to-do lists you need to compile, and phone messages you want to keep on hand in a simple list that slides out from your menubar. **Check Off** (\$5, [www.ricciadams.com](http://www.ricciadams.com)) is like a traditional to-do list, featuring check boxes that give you the satisfying feeling that you accomplished something when you check them. What we like about Check Off is its simplicity—you can add to-dos directly in the menubar, which makes entering tasks just as easy as writing a Sticky note. Shamefully, it does not currently support cut and paste, though the author promises to fix this in the next version.



**3** **BurnoutMenu** (\$5.95, [www.clichesw.com](http://www.clichesw.com)) is another menubar-based task manager. But instead of using check boxes, it uses a colored-button scheme that lets you set priorities. When you finish a task, change the button to gray—a slightly less satisfying experience than clicking Check Off's check boxes. Also, with BurnoutMenu, you have to add items via a separate window (as opposed to Check Off, in which everything happens via one window). However, BurnoutMenu integrates with your iCal to-dos once you have the iCal enabler file, and then enables iCal support. After that, all of your iCal to-dos show up in the BurnoutMenu—although if you have a lot of items, you'll have a lot of scrolling to do. To-dos are listed by category, and categories are listed alphabetically. Sadly, you can't collapse a group of to-dos under its category header.

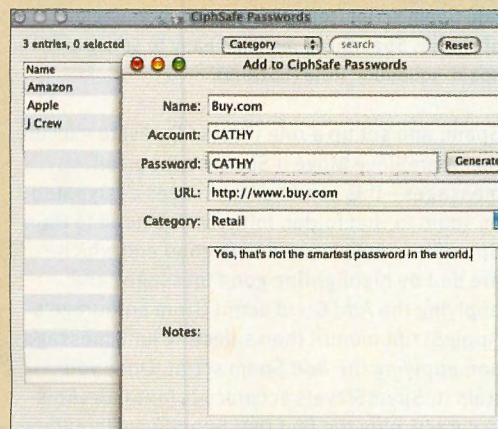




1 If you don't feel like spending much—or *any*—money on this task, then try a free solution like **CiphSafe** (free, [www.withay.com](http://www.withay.com)), which lets you create a password-protected database to hold all of the information your brain can't. Best of all, it's easy as pie to use. CiphSafe uses two windows—one where you enter and view your data, and one where a list of all your entries appears. You can have CiphSafe generate passwords for you, and you can categorize your entries by retail, banking, and so on.

2 **Pastor** (donationware, [www.mehlau.net](http://www.mehlau.net)) does pretty much exactly what CiphSafe does—it creates a password-protected database to hold all of that secret info you don't want to share with the world. The major differences are that Pastor's interface is contained in one window, and it has no way of categorizing your entries—which can get mighty annoying if you have a lot of passwords.

3 If you're serious—seriously paranoid—about your passwords and other personal information, then you can invest a little cash and gain a lot of customizability. **Serial Storage** (\$20, [www.arcaneware.com](http://www.arcaneware.com)) lets you create folders to categorize your entries, and depending on what kind of data you're entering (serial number, credit card, or Web site login), the template changes to accommodate pertinent information. You can also add your own templates. Unfortunately, you can only create one database, so this app isn't conducive to multiple-user Macs. By the way, no matter which of these three apps you pick, remember to do



**CIPHSAFE** is a simple and secure way to keep track of passwords and other minutia.

# DAY 5

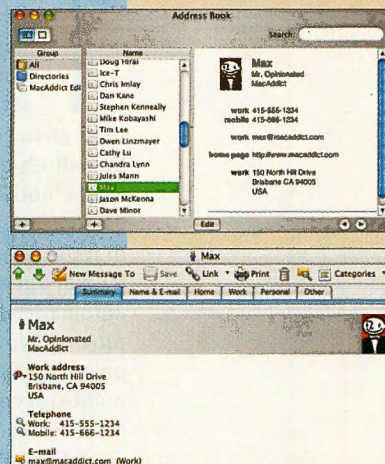
## Organize Your Passwords and Serial Numbers

Do you have a million passwords clouding your brain and an array of serial numbers you can never seem to find when you need to reinstall your apps? It's OK—we all do. Instead of trying to cram even more random info into your gray matter—or keeping all of this personal information in an unprotected text document anyone can steal from your Mac—it's time to enter your passwords, serial numbers, credit card numbers, and banking information into an encrypted database.

one thing: Close the window whenever you leave your desk. Sure, you like your IT guy—but do you trust him?

## The Address Book Dilemma

If you're a truly organized Mac addict, you have truly organized sets of contact names, phone numbers, and email and snail mail addresses—sets that are exactly the same on your home and office Macs, and on that PowerBook you use exclusively for business trips and Starbucks afternoons. You'd think that keeping all of your contact sets in sync would be easy, no matter what email apps you use—after all, the Mac is all about computing made easy, right? Wrong. Here's the rub: If your email apps of choice are **Mail** at home and **Entourage** at work, you'll run into trouble when trying to get their contact databases to play nicely together. At press time, there's simply no easy way to grab new or updated contact information from both Entourage and Mail's partner app, **Address Book**, and merge them into one database in perfect harmony. Microsoft tells us that there's currently no automated way to grab just email addresses from Entourage and add them to your Address Book or PDA. Here's hoping that someday the two apps will play in the same sandbox together. Until then, cut and paste is your best friend.



We had to enter contact info for **MacAddict's** eponymeditor, **Max**, into Apple's **ADDRESS BOOK** (top) and Microsoft's **ENTOURAGE** (bottom) separately. Can't we all just get along?



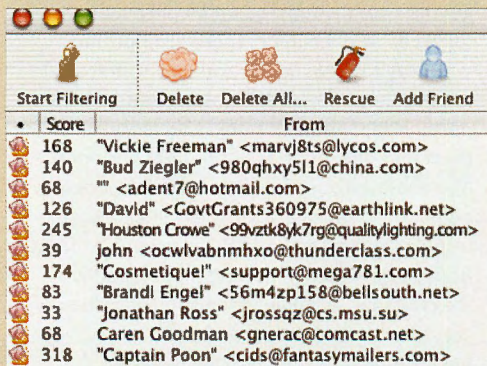
# DAY 6

## Step Away from the Spam

Rather than complain about spam, it's time to get it out of your face. After years of grumbling about hundreds of spam messages a week in our Microsoft Entourage email box, we finally installed a spam-filtering app. We couldn't believe we didn't do it earlier.

Of course, if you're using Apple's Mail (Jaguar or later), you've got built-in spam filtering that works damn well. But if you're using Entourage or another email program that has tepid-at-best junk-mail filtering, it's time to invest in a client-side filter.

**1 Spamfire Pro** (\$39.95, [www.matterform.com](http://www.matterform.com)) runs as a separate application from your email program. You check your mail through Spamfire Pro, and the app routs all good mail through to your in-box and filters out the crap. Spamfire's a pain in that you need to open a whole 'nother app to check your email, but it's a pleasure in that it has built-in filters that the Spamfire's publisher, Matterform Media, updates regularly (updates happen automatically when you launch the app, provided you're online). Spamfire works on a points system, assigning a certain number of points for certain spammy characteristics. If a message exceeds a certain number of points, Spamfire flags it as that spicy luncheon meat we've all learned to hate, and won't pass it through to your in-box. Watch out, though: Spamfire does flag some good emails as spam, so check the spam list once in a while and retrieve those messages.

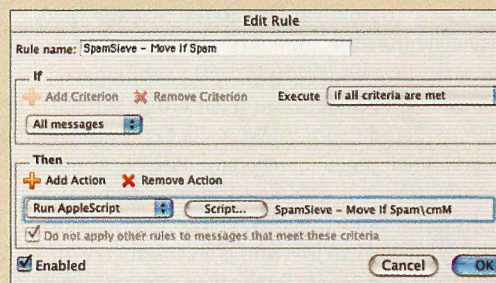
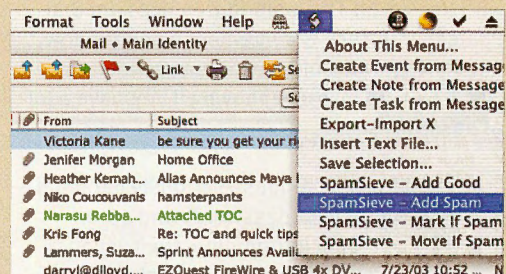


Score	From
168	"Vickie Freeman" <marvj8ts@lycos.com>
140	"Bud Ziegler" <980qhx511@china.com>
68	"<adent7@hotmail.com>
126	"David" <GovtGrants360975@earthlink.net>
245	"Houston Crowe" <99vzt8yk7rg@qualitylighting.com>
39	john <ocwlvabnmhxo@thunderclass.com>
174	"Cosmetique!" <support@mega781.com>
83	"Brandl Engel" <56m4zp158@bellsouth.net>
33	"Jonathan Ross" <jrossqz@cs.msu.su>
68	Caren Goodman <gnerac@comcast.net>
318	"Captain Poon" <cids@fantasymailers.com>

You can view all of the messages **SPAMFIRE** flags as junk—as you can see, we have no shortage of crap.

**2 SpamSieve** (\$20, [www.c-command.com](http://www.c-command.com)) takes a different approach to spam. It uses *Bayesian filtering* (a spam-sniffing technology similar to what Mail uses), which learns what spam means to you by examining every single word in your email messages and comparing the message to other messages you've designated as spam. SpamSieve comes with scripts that work with Entourage, Claris's EMailer, Qualcomm's Eudora 5.2, Bare Bones' Mailsmith, and CTM Development's PowerMail. You install the AppleScripts for your specific program, and from there, you control your spam from within your email app of choice.

For Entourage, we installed our scripts into the Entourage Script Menu Items folder (Users > user name > Documents > Microsoft User Data > Entourage Script Menu Items). From there, we went into Entourage, created a folder called

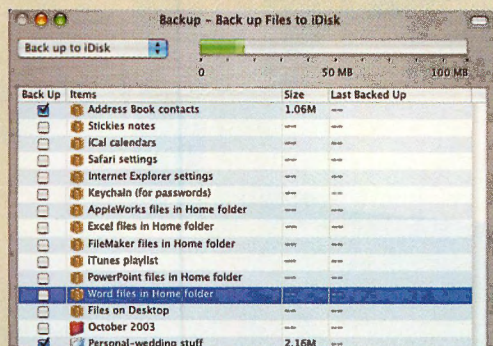


To tell **SPAMSIEVE** that a message is junk, run the **Add Spam** script (top). If Entourage is your email app of choice, SpamSieve makes it easy to set up a **spam-squashin' Rule** (bottom).

Spam, and set up a rule (Tools > Rules) to execute the SpamSieve Move If Spam script on all messages—this sends all messages designated as spam to that folder. Initially, you need to train SpamSieve which emails are good and which are bad by highlighting good messages and applying the Add Good script (from Entourage's AppleScript menu), then selecting junk messages and applying the Add Spam script. Once you train it, SpamSieve's accuracy is fantastic. This accuracy, plus the fact that SpamSieve integrates right into your email program, makes it our preferred filter.



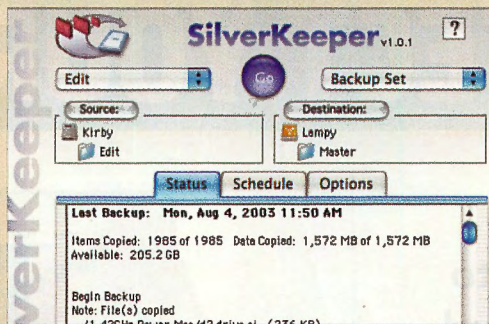
1 The de facto backup solution is **Retrospect Desktop** (\$129, [www.dantz.com](http://www.dantz.com)). Retrospect is expensive and the poster child for convoluted interface design, but it has a lot of high-level functionality. For example, it has the ability to make progressive backups—that is, it backs up your files incrementally and will remove files you deleted. This helpful capability means that if you need to restore your system, you'll get a mirror image of what you had when your drive went south. Plus, the slightly less capable Retrospect Express is bundled with a number of products, such as Symantec's Norton SystemWorks—you may already own it.



**Backup's** Quick Picks feature searches out a variety of files by type and function, wherever they may be located in your Home folder.

2 If you're a .Mac subscriber (\$99.95 per year, [www.mac.com](http://www.mac.com)), you already have a solution to your backup challenge—one with the marvelously inventive name of **Backup**. This useful member of the .Mac-service family allows you to backup to your .Mac iDisk or to a CD-R/CD-RW or DVD-R disk in your Mac's internal Combo Drive or SuperDrive. A nifty feature called Quick Picks helps you find all those hidden-but-useful files you might miss otherwise—for example, Safari Bookmarks and iTunes Playlists—by automatically locating them for you. You can also schedule backup to your iDisk that will run unattended, and use the single-click restoration function to put files back where they belong.

3 Backup doesn't get any simpler than LaCie's free downloadable utility, **SilverKeeper** (free, [www.silverkeeper.com](http://www.silverkeeper.com))—too simple for our taste, although the price is right. Choose a source, choose a destination, and then click the big ol' purple Go button, and the backup begins.



It's simple. It's straightforward. It's free. It's **SILVERKEEPER**.

The main letdown is that there's no scheduling option in the Mac OS X version—you need to start the backup manually each time. Yeah, there is a Schedule tab in the SilverKeeper dialog, but all the choices are grayed out. According to LaCie, the company plans to “enable scheduling capability in a future release”—but that quote's been on the company's Web site for a *loooooong* time. Hey, at least it's free.

4 If you're looking for an easy solution that *has* scheduling, take a look at **Déjà Vu** (\$14.95, <http://propagandaprod.com>), which runs from within Mac OS X's System

Preferences. Simply go to the Déjà Vu preferences pane, set up what you want to back up, where you want to back up to, and either run it manually or schedule it to run at a certain time. We used Déjà Vu to back up our important work files to a second hard drive and our iPod. Supposedly, Déjà Vu is able to back up to a server, but we had problems getting this to work. Still, most home users will want to back up to CD, DVD, or a second hard drive, so this limitation isn't a deal-killer.

## DAY 7

### Get Your Backup Butt in Gear

No more excuses: It's time to get a backup plan in place. It's a bore, but once you get the right tools you'll hardly have to give it another thought. Remember, there are only two types of people in the world—those who have experienced a hard-drive crash, and those who will.

Now that *MacAddict* editor Cathy Lu has organized her Mac, she's going to start color-coding her underwear drawer and arranging her socks alphabetically by brand.



# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM

by Narasu Rebbapragada

Mac users like to believe email and Internet security fraud primarily plague Windows users. **Not true.**

**C**onsider Vitaly Jones. As reported in MacIntouch's Internet Fraud Reader Reports ([www.macintouch.com](http://www.macintouch.com)), he spammed a list of email addresses with the "too-good-to-be-true" offer of a "FACTORY SEALED! 1GHz Apple PowerBook G4 with SuperDrive for \$1,125." Unfortunately, some souls bit the bait and now the U.S. Secret Service, along with Apple, is investigating.

Sure, we Mac addicts aren't as highly targeted as the PC crowd—we're not home free either. Here are some quick tips for avoiding some of the most common types of fraud.

## TIP1 AVOID FRAUDULENT EMAIL

Common sense is your best weapon against the likes of Vitaly Jones. If you can't contact vendors any other way than through the spam they send, be very suspicious.

Savvy spammers know that, so they try to appear legitimate via scams the Federal Trade Commission calls *spoofing* and *phishing*. Spoofing is the practice of changing an email's From and Reply To headers to a seemingly official email address like eBay, AOL, or PayPal.

Phishing is the practice of embedding in email the URL for a fake Web form that contains ripped-off graphics and text from official sites. When you fill in that information, your information just



goes back to the spammer.

To protect yourself against spoofing and phishing: "Look at the header of the message to see where it comes from," says Eric Wenger, an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Marketing Practices. Even if the From and Reply To addresses look legitimate,

the full Internet headers (View > Internet Headers in Microsoft Entourage X or View > Show All Headers in Apple Mail) reveal the real path the message is traveling.

Above all, don't send or store credit card, password, and social security number information in email. Hackers can snoop your email, which transmits

## SECURITY RESOURCES AND PRODUCTS

### THE MAC OS X SECURITY PAGE

([www.apple.com/macosx/technologies/security.html](http://www.apple.com/macosx/technologies/security.html)) Apple's own page about Mac OS X's security arsenal.

### PGP PERSONAL 8.0.2 FOR MAC OS X

(\$50, [www.pgp.com](http://www.pgp.com)) The industry-standard email-encryption app.

### MAC GNU PRIVACY GUARD

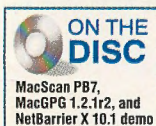
(free, <http://macgpg.sourceforge.net>) The open-source alternative to PGP.

### SECUREMAC.COM ([www.securemac.com](http://www.securemac.com))

The latest in Mac security news and products.

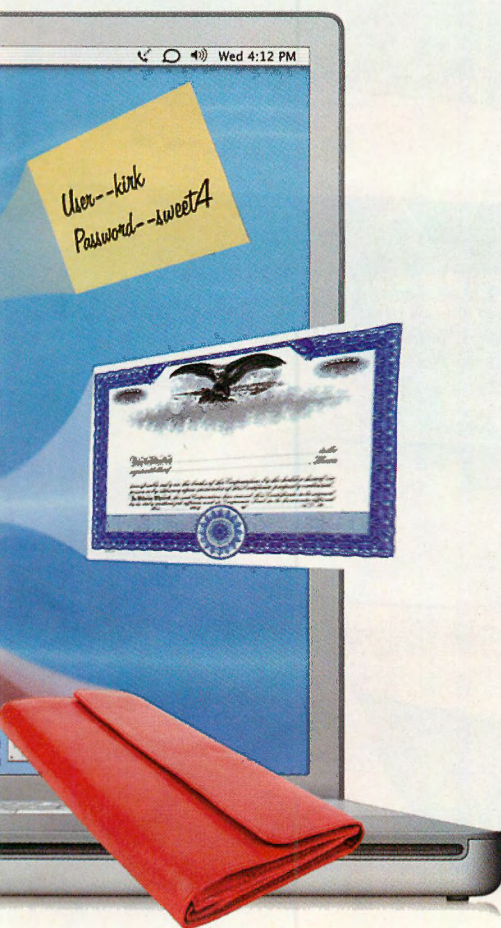
### MACSCAN (free, <http://macscan.securemac.com>)

Checks your Mac for spyware.





# ONLINE SCAMS



as straight ASCII text, using tools such as the Unix command *snoop*. If you have to send emails with sensitive information, use an email encryption program such as PGP 8.0.2 Personal for Mac OS X (\$50, [www.pgp.com](http://www.pgp.com)). Alternatively, the poor man's encryption algorithm is to break up the information into multiple emails.

## NORTON PERSONAL FIREWALL

(\$69.95, [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)) Offers more control and features than Mac OS X's built-in firewall.

## MACINTOSHSECURITY.COM

([www.macintoshsecurity.com](http://www.macintoshsecurity.com)) Like SecureMac but with forums.

## FREAK'S MACINTOSH ARCHIVE

(<http://freaky.staticusers.net>) A hacker's site that fills you in on what the other side's up to.

## TIP 2 PROTECT YOUR MAC

Don't overlook the obvious. Ne'er-do-wells can walk up to your Mac and then walk off with your passwords and other personal information, so encrypt sensitive files, folders, and passwords with Apple's Disk Copy and Keychain Access applications (Applications > Utilities). Disk Copy lets you make 128-bit AES (advanced encryption standard) encrypted disk images. Keychain Access encrypts password data with 3DES (triple digital encryption standard). FYI, experts prefer 128-bit AES encryption to the theoretical 112-bit key encryption of 3DES.

You can also use Keychain Access to set your Keychain to lock while your machine is asleep or not in use (Edit > Keychain name Settings).

Apple's next generation of Mac OS X, Panther, provides even better file security via FileVault, which encrypts your entire home folder with 128-bit AES encryption.

Slightly more sophisticated ne'er-do-wells can install otherwise useful keystroke loggers like Burning Bytes' Monitorer X (\$11.95, [www.burning-bytes.com](http://www.burning-bytes.com)) to record every keystroke you make. Find and trash them using apps like MacScan (free, <http://mascan.securemac.com>), which checks your Mac for keystroke loggers, Trojan horses, and other spyware.

## TIP 3 SHOP SAFELY

Even legitimate ecommerce activity can endanger your personal information. Last May, a Canadian security researcher calling himself Null found a way to access Apple Store account information, including credit card digits. Null reported his findings to Wired News, which alerted Apple, which fixed the problem within a few days.

To protect yourself, shop only at secure sites with Web-store URLs that begin with <https://>, which stands for HTTP Secure. Your browser will also

display a dialog or a lock icon. Most major browsers support SSL (secure sockets layer) and TLS (transport layer security) encryption protocols, both of which use the <https://> prefix.

Second, use Mac OS X's built-in firewall, located in the Sharing preferences pane to turn on and off open network ports (they're off by default) used for file sharing, printer sharing, FTP access, and remote access. Logging in to an FTP (file transfer protocol) server transmits a text message that includes the FTP login information, as does logging in to a network remotely via Telnet. To bolster security in these areas, Apple employs Secure Shell (SSH) for encrypting Telnet sessions and the WebDAV file-management protocol for remotely transferring files to iDisk Web servers (WebDAV is considered more secure than FTP because it takes advantage of the security features supported by the HTTP protocol.)

## TIP 4 UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE

"Stay current with patches," says David Goldsmith, a director at @Stake, a security-consulting firm. True, those Mac OS X software updates can be annoying and may seem trivial, but between the Norwegian and Chinese language updates Apple includes fixes for security holes.

Goldsmith should know. He found one such hole—a logic flaw that affected root-level directory services—that savvy hackers could exploit to escalate their privileges in your system. "They could monitor email, look at files on the system, and basically have complete control over the computer," Goldsmith explains. Goldsmith notified Apple of the breach by email. In about two weeks, Apple created a patch that came out in the Mac OS 10.2.5 software update.



MacAddict news editor Narasu Rebbapragada wants to protect her Mac with a laser tripwire alarm system, but her boss won't let her.



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## Introducing the new \$1995\* Bravo™ Disc Publisher

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E-mail to [sales@primera.com](mailto:sales@primera.com)  
Or visit us at [www.primera9.com](http://www.primera9.com)

\*Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price in the USA; reseller prices may vary. †Requires Mac OS X v10.2 or later. Bravo is a trademark and Primera is a registered trademark of Primera Technology, Inc. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Mac is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. registered in the U.S. and other countries. The "Built for Mac OS X" graphic is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc., used under license. All other trademarks are the property of their respective companies. © 2003 Primera Technology, Inc. All rights reserved.

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The only thing worse than waiting for Apple's announced-but-not-yet-available Power Mac G5 is waiting for our 400MHz Power Mac G4 (aka Crashmaster IV). We eased some of the pain by stoking it with a hot-rod Mercury Extreme G4 processor upgrade (pictured here). Although it does a great job of resembling the condo we built in SimCity 4, it won't let us play that game, much less Unreal Tournament 2003. Modern software requires more than just megahertz—up-to-date video and massive hard drives are required too. So we'll kill time making pretty CDs with the two disc-printing devices we reviewed this month, and descratching our iPods with a new product we've all been screaming for. Then we'll hold our collective breath until the G5 arrives and we can see for ourselves just how fast fast is.

## ThisMonth:

- 50 Allegro FW800 *FireWire 800 PCI card*
- 58 Astra FS180 *film scanner*
- 54 BloodRayne *third-person action game*
- 53 Bravo Disc Publisher *disc publishing system*
- 50 Cobra FireWire 800/USBII HD *FireWire 800 hard drive*
- 61 DLO Action Jacket *iPod case*
- 60 Expert Mouse *optical trackball*
- 59 Ice Creme *acrylic polish and scratch remover*
- 50 LaCie FireWire 800 PCI Card *FireWire 800 PCI card*
- 60 LapTop Desk *laptop stand*
- 46 Leica D-Lux *3.2-megapixel digital camera*
- 61 MacSkinz *iBook cover*
- 58 Mercury Extreme G4 *G4 processor upgrade*
- 50 Mercury FireWire 800 PCI *FireWire 800 PCI card*
- 47 Nisus Writer Express *word-processing software*
- 50 Orangelink FireWire 800/1394b PCI Card *FireWire 800 PCI card*
- 60 PocketMouse SE *travel mouse*
- 57 SimCity 4 *civilization-building sim game*
- 48 Studio TVR *DV converter and TV recorder/player*
- 52 Stylus Photo 900 *inkjet photo and disc printer*
- 56 Tropico Mucho Macho *civilization-building strategy game*
- 44 Unreal Tournament 2003 *first-person shooter*
- 59 Visual Thesaurus *thesaurus software*

### PLUS:

## TheHotList

62 The best of the best from recent reviews.

X

Compatible with  
Mac OS X or later.

9

Compatible with  
Mac OS 9 or earlier.



If we were  
shopping for this  
type of product,  
this is the one  
we'd buy.





# Unreal Tournament 2003

## FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

**B**lood and gore. Violence. More blood and gore. More violence. Unreal Tournament 2003 richly deserves the Mature rating it earned for its grisly, nonstop action. Dismembered body parts *thump* wetly as they rain down. Snipers' headshots litter the ground with burning corpses. Blood doesn't splatter, it showers. Cool.

UT 2003 isn't much different than its predecessor, and we're glad—don't mess with a good thing. It's just bigger, better, and bloodier. And it includes the traditional Deathmatch (kill everything that isn't you), Team Deathmatch (kill everything that isn't on your team), Capture the Flag (steal the enemy team's flag while protecting your own), and Double Domination (vie for control of two bases with your team). But it also includes a new game called Bombing Run: a ball-and-goal-based team game that plays like rugby—rugby with big guns, that is.

Bombing Run has nothing to do with bombing. Two teams fight for control of a ball; picking it up changes your weapon into a ball-thrower for passing the ball to a teammate or firing it through the enemy's goal to score three points. Of course, real warriors will jump through the goal instead, earning seven points—often with a glorious death. The

tricky part is that like Capture the

Flag, you can't use your Personal Teleporter while carrying the ball—and unlike CTF, you can't even fire a weapon. It's great fun, and you get an announcer worthy of a monster-truck rally.

What can we say about the sequel to the game that's still our favorite diversion more than three years after its initial release? Well, the last time we reviewed Unreal Tournament (Apr/00, p52), our main complaint concerned the game's setup interface. Changing any of the game settings in the original UT sucked because the interface was so slow and unresponsive—besides being as ugly

as a Windows stepchild. In 2003 you get a smooth, responsive interface that's much faster than the old one. It also looks better—it's still a far cry from OS X's Aqua delights, but who cares? It works great.

If you're ticked that UT 2003 hit the Mac almost a year after its PC release, revel in this: The Mac version includes extras out the wazoo that weren't included with the first release. We Mac addicts get booty from two bonus packs—including 14 extra maps—as well as three additional game types that offer slight variations on the usual UT carnage. In the first, Mutant, whoever scores the first kill becomes the Mutant, who (stocked with



the full UT armory) must kill to keep up its health until it's killed by another player, who then takes his place as the Mutant.

It's sort of like tag, only bloodier. In the second, Invasion, all players fight an infestation of big, mean, hairy, fireball-throwing bugs, and their bigger, meaner, uglier humanoid chaperones. Finally, there's Last Man Standing, a game from the original UT in which players gain health points for kills.

The playing fields provide more of the balanced UT mix: crowded hallways where your rocket launcher can take you out along with your mark, and wide-open environs such as the multitiered rooftops in the SkyLine and Plunge levels, where reduced gravity allows for amazing hang time when you're jumping from here to there. You still have to watch your step, though, lest you leave a small crater in the unseen depths below after a fall, or get picked off by an enemy sniping from *anywhere*—that's 360 degrees around, above, and below.

Many of the battlegrounds are updated versions from the previous release. We love the new Face 3, Lava

## PILL POPPIN' POWER

The UT landscape has always been scattered with bounteous booty in the form of weapons, ammo, and power-ups that increase your health and protective shielding, and give you temporary powers. Most of the previous version's power-ups have been replaced by Adrenaline, which you accumulate by collecting capsules scattered throughout each level and by killing opponents. Amass 100 Adrenaline points, and you can activate Speed, Invisibility, Regeneration (of your health points), or Berserk by entering the following keystrokes.

**Speed:** forward, forward, forward

**Regeneration:** back, back, back, back

**Invisibility:** strafe-right, strafe-right, strafe-left, strafe-left

**Berserk:** forward, forward, back, back



The view from a good sniper spot.





Giant 2, and Phobos 2. Overall, the graphics are stunning and big enough to occasionally make our Dual 1.25GHz Power Mac's Radeon 9000 with 64MB of VRAM skip a frame—but not often and only on the hugest maps.

Of course, you need some help to compete in these even more futuristic, brutal, and deadly worlds. UT has you covered. For starters, warriors (that'd be you and your peeps) are bigger and stronger, and can jump higher than ever before. If you tap the space bar to jump and realize you're not going to make that ledge, you can press the space bar again at the height of your jump for a boost, Michael Jordan double-pump style. You'll also find a new type of ground score scattered throughout the levels: The standard 10- and 25-point health packs, 100-point Big Keg O' Health, Double Damage inducer, Shield and Super Shield Packs—and, of course, weapons—are plentiful. Plus, there are new Adrenalin capsules that give you temporary special powers like Speed and Invisibility when you really need them, instead of instantly when you happen to find the power-up, as in the old UT. The Adrenaline system is a huge improvement, allowing smart players to strategize and use the special powers more effectively (see "Pill-Poppin' Power," previous page).

Most of UT's weapons, including the Flak Cannon, Minigun, Shock Rifle, and Rocket Launcher, are back and essentially unchanged. So is the big boy: the one-shot Redeemer. But if you think the Redeemer's personal nuclear missile was impressive, try the awesome new Ion Painter. It's a simple ion rifle that doesn't cause any immediate damage when you tag your target with its harmless laser beam—however, once the satellite-based Ion Cannon picks up the mark, stand back (actually, run far away). The resulting two-terawatt blast of ionized plasma vaporizes everything within a 50-meter radius of its target (check out "New Superweapon: The Ion Painter," right).

The single-player game is a ladder-style tournament, where you and your team of computer-controlled

bots fight other teams in each of the four main combat types. It took us a weekend to finish the game at Average difficulty, but we're pansies—there are six difficulty levels above Average. Throw in the extra maps, new game types, and fun Mutators (turn on Big Head, and each player's head size grows to reflect their kill status in the game—great fun!) that come pre-loaded in UT 2003 for the Mac, and this game can last a long time even if you don't have Internet access. But competing with other humans on a local network or the Internet is the real UT addiction, and it's been improved for 2003. Besides the smoother interface for finding online games, the network performance is allegedly fast enough to play over a 33.6-Kbps modem—but you'll still want a fast DSL or cable connection for optimal online play.

Unbridled, unabashedly violent mayhem (coordinated, unabashedly violent mayhem in the more-organized games) isn't for everyone, but if it's your thing, Unreal Tournament 2003 is your game.

—Niko Coucouvanis

## NEW SUPERWEAPON: THE ION PAINTER

UT 2003's new superweapon lets you rain down hellfire from above in the form of ionized plasma streams from the satellite-based Ion Cannon.



First, we identify the target; alt-fire activates a zoom-in scope.



In a few moments, the satellite-based Ion Cannon locks on.



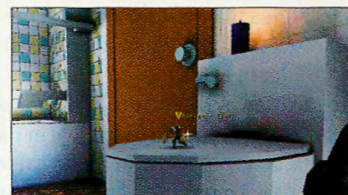
This would be a good time to run like hell.



And there goes the neighborhood!

## GET MORE UNREAL

An Internet connection gets you in on the live multiplayer action, and also reveals a wealth of free UT add-ons: maps, player skins, mods, and mutators—all created by other UT fans, and all ready for you to download for free and use to add new battle arenas and other elements to your game. Try [www.unrealplanet.com](http://www.unrealplanet.com), [www.ut2003.com](http://www.ut2003.com), and [www.beyondunreal.com](http://www.beyondunreal.com).



Venture online, and you can play UT in this giant-sized bathroom.

**COMPANY:** MacSoft

**CONTACT:** 800-229-2714 or 612-249-7600,  
[www.macsoftgames.com](http://www.macsoftgames.com)

**PRICE:** \$49.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** 700MHz G4  
(excluding 12-inch PowerBook), Mac OS  
10.2.6, 256MB RAM, 3GB disk space,  
32MB VRAM

**GOOD NEWS:** Awesome action. Improved interface and network performance.

**BAD NEWS:** Massive levels make even a high-end Mac stutter. Still no level editor for Macs.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**AWESOME**



# Leica D-Lux

## 3.2-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA



This marvel of German design also takes great photos.

The 3.2-megapixel Leica D-Lux is a class act. Not only does its minimalist design make it a museum-worthy collection piece, but it includes an extra 3.6 Lilon battery, a 90-minute quick charger, an ample 64MB SD memory card, and a suave leather camera case.

Though it weighs only 7 ounces, the camera's elongated body size of 1 by 2 by 4.5 inches gives it perfect balance. Every control is in the right place; it's truly a one-size-fits-all camera, be your hands large or small. And with a top shutter speed of 1/2,000 of a second (auto) and a fast f-2.8 lens, there's not much it can't handle.

Flip the power switch to On and in less than 2 seconds the built-in lens cover slides to one side, allowing the 35mm-to-105mm (35mm equivalent) Vario-Elmarit Leica lens to telescope into position. A flick of the zoom rocker switch adjusts your field of view in the big, bright optical viewfinder (or on the 1.5-inch LCD monitor), and you're ready to shoot.

If you're a novice, the Auto setting will do a great job. Want more control? Place the mode dial on Program and

you can fiddle with variables, including flash modes, exposure compensation, bracketing (three pictures taken automatically at different exposures), light metering, resolution (four choices), compression, white balance, and ISO (up to 400 for low-light or action shots). All that's missing is shutter-speed control—a feature lacking on most point-and-shoot models, which we can partly get around by adjusting the ISO.

You can also dial in special modes such as Macro (close-ups to 4 inches), Portrait (for soft, out-of-focus backgrounds), Landscape (to retain sharpness from foreground to infinity), Night (long exposures up to 8 seconds), Palette (warm, cool, and black-and-



The D-Lux does extremely well at capturing high-contrast shots without munging the color as many cameras do.

white effects), and Movies-With-Sound. Tucked into the middle of the mode dial is a Series button for sequence shooting of up to five high-resolution images at 2 to 4 fps—perfect for sports shots.

Menu diving is required only for setup or occasionally used settings. Three buttons and a four-way rocker switch control all key functions such as LCD display status (off, info showing, no info), viewing the last picture taken without leaving Record mode, setting the flash, activating the self-timer, deleting images, accessing menus, and quickly compensating for overly bright or dark scenes.

Flash reach was about 10 to 12 feet, stretchable by hiking the ISO to 400. We got about 110 images per battery charge with 50 percent use of the monitor and flash. Shot-to-shot time was very fast, about a second or less. Playback was even faster, and zooming in 8x to scroll around and check image details was a cinch. There was virtually no delay (shutter lag) between pressing the shutter button and actually taking the picture. And image quality was superb—11-by-14.5-inch display prints came out tack sharp and color accurate.

Try as we might, we couldn't find anything about the Leica D-Lux we didn't like. In both form and function, it's virtually flawless. Although utilitarians can find more functionality and image quality for the D-Lux's \$900 price tag, this camera is a thing of beauty that promises to be a joy forever.—Arthur Bleich



The D-Lux's Macro setting captured this little flower perfectly at full telephoto from about a foot away.



**COMPANY:** Leica Camera  
**CONTACT:** 201-767-7500,  
www.leica-camera.com  
**PRICE:** \$900

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped  
Mac, Mac OS 8.6 to 9.x or 10.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Superb image quality. Solid-metal parts. Three-year warranty. Free name engraving. Excellent manual. Feature-packed.  
**BAD NEWS:** Limited production. Pricey. Creates irresistible cravings.

**MacAddict RATED**  
**AWESOME**



# Nisus Writer Express

WORD-PROCESSING SOFTWARE

There are two ways to update classic software to run natively in OS X: the quick-port way, which results in bloated, processor-and-memory-hogging behemoths like Microsoft Word, and the ground-up way, which requires developers to rewrite their software for OS X from scratch. The latter approach usually results in leaner, meaner apps such as Nisus Writer Express. The trade off is development time and, in this case, a lack of feature parity with the previous version.

Express launches fast, reads and writes Microsoft Word documents, and has jack-be-nimble text handling—even on a 600MHz iBook. But Express isn't a full Mac OS X port of the mature Nisus Writer 6 we reviewed a couple of years ago (Jun/01, p58). Diplomatically speaking, this zippy new app has more potential than polish.

Classic Nisus Writer was a tough act to follow. In Express, many of its predecessor's niceties are AWOL. For example, Express doesn't tweak spaces when you delete a word or paste a sentence, and doesn't have interactive typo correction—the spelling checker will flag "ahve" but won't correct it to "have." We also encountered an odd bug where the checker would flag correctly spelled words for no apparent reason—though not on every Mac we used for testing. (This is one of many glitches Nisus has promised to fix.)

Other functions have been stripped to bare bones. For starters, Word Count can't do a total word count of multiple open documents, can't display document stats side by side with selected text stats, and has no grade-level readability ratings. Also, while classic Nisus Writer

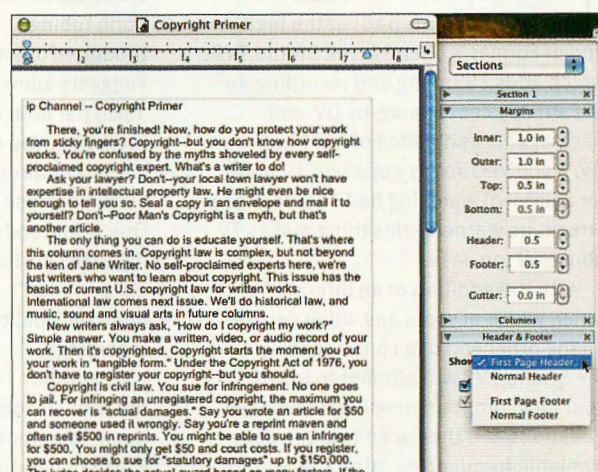
had powerful and flexible headers and footers, in Express you can

have only one set of even and odd headers and footers for each section, there are no Roman numerals for page numbers, you can't restart numbering midstream, and you can't delete headers and footers altogether. Overall, Express's header control is about equal to Microsoft Word's, but it falls far short of classic Nisus Writer. That said, unless you're writing a novel or two, you'll gladly trade these shortcomings for Express' spry performance.

Express opens classic Nisus Writer

documents as read-only, and the conversion isn't perfect. On a very long (500-plus page), complex classic document, Express dropped most headers and footers and font changes, and all paragraph and character formatting—though it did preserve the margins (whoopee). Shorter docs generally retained the paragraph and character formatting but not font changes. Ironically, Express is better at reading Word documents than classic Nisus Writer docs, importing both fonts and formatting. It doesn't preserve Word's comments, tracked changes, or tables, but many users won't miss those features anyway.

Much as we love seeing Nisus Aquafied for Mac OS X, adopting the OS X look and feel made PowerFind's



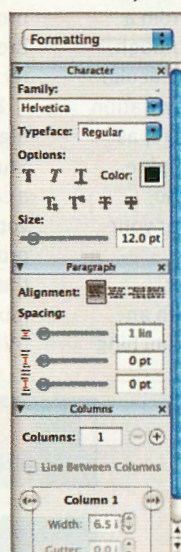
Young and promising, Nisus Writer Express lives up to its venerable ancestor—but doesn't eclipse it.

advanced features more difficult to use. Adding more-complex pattern matching to your find-and-replace query now requires opening the huge, floating PowerFind Browser window, which appears in front of the document window and often hides the find-and-replace dialog's text-entry boxes. If you don't need to find, say, every date between December and May, you'll never be bothered to use the PowerFind Browser.

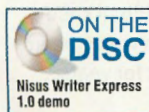
Advanced features like PowerFind, long-document support, and complex headers are what made classic Nisus Writer an exceptional alternative to Word, despite its lack of tables. Nisus Writer Express is a solid little word processor, but it's no Word-killer.

Express is still a good solution for the Nisus-faithful looking to move to OS X, and a decent option for reading Word documents without Word's high price tag—unfortunately, it's also lacking classic Nisus's completeness. Nisus Writer Express is "express" in the best sense of the word: It's quick, stable, affordable, and gentle on your system. We can't wait for it to mature.

—Mary E. Tyler



The formatting drawer covers the basics, and you can even customize it by adding or removing individual palettes.



COMPANY: Nisus

CONTACT: 800-890-3030 or

858-481-1477, www.nisus.com

PRICE: \$59.95, \$34.95 (upgrade from Nisus Writer 6.0)

REQUIREMENTS:

G3, Mac OS 10.2

GOOD NEWS: Speedy. Excellent basics.

Good Word support.

BAD NEWS: Wonky interactive spelling checker.

Lffy support for classic Nisus Writer documents.

MacAddict RATED





# Studio TVR

DV CONVERTER AND TV RECORDER/PLAYER

Taking the place of the Studio DV (Reviews, Jul/01, p48) at the high end of Formac's lineup is the Studio TVR, which adds TV tuning and recording to the already cool analog-to-DV-and-back-again capabilities of the Studio DV. If you've already got a bad TV habit (or a habit of watching bad TV), or a lazy streak, be warned—this thing makes TV abuse all too easy.

With the addition of an internal TV tuner, which accepts any video source on the other end of a coaxial cable, the Studio TVR will attempt to locate your local programming based on a few questions and then scan through your available frequencies. After the Studio TVR sniffs out signals that are strong enough for a good picture, you have the option of saving and labeling up to 125 of them with icons (just what you happen to be doing with a bunch of TV

## We're thrilled with the Studio TVR's capabilities and performance.

network icons lying around is anyone's guess), and flipping through them as if you were watching TV—which is what you are in fact doing.

Endless channels of broadcasting won't do you much good, though, unless you have a way to organize them—and the thoughtful folks at Formac have teamed up with TitanTV to lubricate your TVRing. A visit to TitanTV's Web site helps isolate your available channels and offers a single-click method for downloading program data to your Mac.

The vaguely iCal-ish Studio TVR software lets you point and click your way to a schedule of programs to record. If you allow it to, the Studio TVR software will awaken a sleeping Mac you can record your soaps or automatically grab that elusive *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* episode while you're out on the town.

You'd better have enough disk

space for all that boob tubing, though—Formac suggests allowing 13GB per hour of DV recording. You can adjust compression settings to use any QuickTime codec if you're short on space or don't need DV-quality recordings.

In addition to the thrill of coming home to a weekend's worth of hand-culled network or cable television, the Studio TVR also provides composite (RCA) and S-Video inputs and outputs, meaning you can digitally archive any analog media you have lying around. Capturing video from a VCR is painless; to be honest, though, we had more fun recording spectacular victories in Tekken 4 via our PlayStation 2's composite jacks. Your mileage, as always, may vary. You can even pipe your digitally formatted video the other way and record to a VCR for your techno-challenged friends.

Although Formac would prefer that you use a Mac equipped with an 800MHz processor, the video crunching



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK WADEO

The Studio TVR looks exactly like its Studio DV bro, but it's smarter.

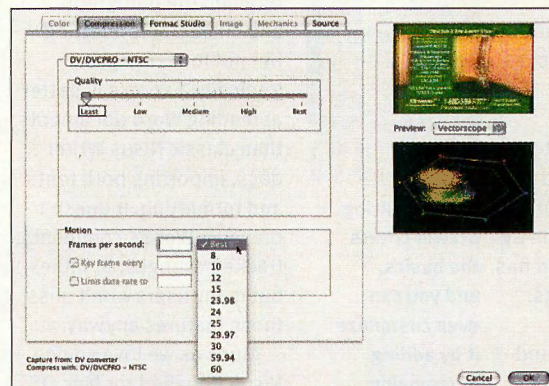
is done largely in the Studio TVR, sparing your CPU—we tested on two sub-500MHz machines, which were able to record just fine. If you encounter problems like stuttering audio or dropped frames, you can lower the recording quality.

If you've got old home movies to digitize, just plug your VCR into the Studio TVR; iMovie treats this duo like a camera and sucks the video right into your project's clip shelf. For finished projects that need no polish or editing, there's also MPEG2 export, so you can mix your audio and video and burn a DVD or SVCD. The most recent version

of the included software is also AppleScriptable (and includes a few example scripts), meaning it'll be easy to integrate scheduling into other applications as the need arises.

Bottom line: We're so thrilled with the Studio TVR's capabilities and performance that we forgot to hassle Formac for reusing its oddball case design, which we've been griping about for years.

—Paul Yoon



The Studio TVR software lets you tweak basic settings for DV-conversion quality.



**COMPANY:** Formac  
**CONTACT:** 877-436-7622,  
www.formac.com  
**PRICE:** \$399

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3 or later  
(800MHz recommended), built-in  
FireWire, Mac OS 10.2 or later,  
QuickTime 6 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy setup. Integrated DV encoder spares your Mac. Fun with video games. Analog archivist's dream.  
**BAD NEWS:** Guaranteed to increase your TV intake. Won't eke good reception out of bad antennae. DV files eat disk space.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



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computers now have  
multi-functions and  
printers to match...



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**LASER MFC**  
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A VARIETY OF MODELS AVAILABLE AT: MacWarehouse, MacMall, MacConnection, MacZone, Microcenter, CDW, Office Depot, Staples, OfficeMax, Fry's, J&R Computer World, and Apple Stores (or [www.store.apple.com](http://www.store.apple.com)).



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# FireWire 800 PCI Cards

ALLEGRO FW800, LACIE FIREWIRE 800 PCI CARD, MERCURY FIREWIRE 800 PCI, ORANGELINK FIREWIRE 800/1394B PCI CARD

Being Mac addicts, we pay close attention to a product's industrial design and functional aesthetics—but rarely when we're evaluating PCI cards. Those we just stick inside a Power Mac and quickly relegate to out-of-site, out-of-mind status. However, in evaluating these four FireWire 800 PCI cards, there's little besides looks to differentiate one from another.

All four are completely plug-and-play—no driver installation or configuration required. All four are built around one FireWire controller that can feed up to 63 devices (FireWire 800 and/or FireWire 400) through three ports on the card. All four work in either 32- or 64-bit PCI slots. All four sport an internal power connector in case you need more bus power than the 30 watts your Mac's PCI bus pushes natively. None of the cards ships with the required power cable—but you probably won't need it anyway, as FireWire 800 drives are generally hefty, high-performance beasts that require their own dedicated power supply.

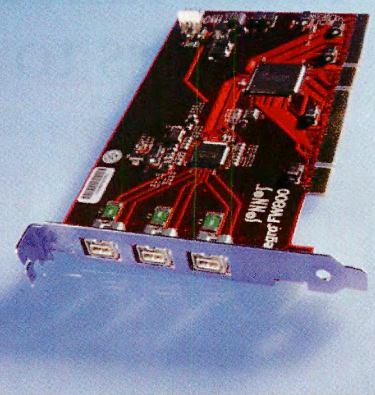
Their performance is similar as well. All four cards perform within a 2 percent margin of error when compared to the onboard FireWire 800 port on our Dual 1.25GHz Power Mac test platform, transferring files back and forth from the Mac to a pair of EZQuest Cobra FireWire 800 drives striped into a high-performance RAID 0 array at speeds up to 50MB per second. And that's using a real-world test—moving 2GB files back and forth—not some surreal-world benchmark.

All four cards are backward-compatible to support FireWire 400, but only one—the OrangeLink—provides a six-pin port alongside two nine-pin ones, so you can plug your legacy devices right in without the adapter or cable you'd have to use (and find on your own) with the LaCie, OWC, or Sonnet cards. This convenience tipped the scales in the OrangeLink's favor—if you have a dockable iPod and an iSight, that extra FireWire 400 port

will come in mighty handy.


To really appreciate FireWire 800, we clocked the FireWire 400 performance of both the Dual 1.25GHz Power Mac and a 400MHz Power Mac. The performance difference isn't necessarily surprising, but it's huge. FireWire 400 performance on that three-year-old Power Mac—15 to 20 MBps—is less than half as fast as FireWire 800 on the Dual 1.25GHz Mac and the FireWire 800 cards. The Dual 1.25's FireWire 400 performance is in between, at around 28 to 30 MBps.

So do you need a FireWire 800 card? If you have a brand-spankin' new Mac or a G5 on the way, probably not, but if you need extra speed *now*, these cards will provide it. Remember, though, that to get the most out of FireWire 800 you'll need to buy more drives and create a multidrive RAID volume—a costly endeavor.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

**ALLEGRO FW800**


**COMPANY:** Sonnet Technologies  
**CONTACT:** 949-587-3500, [www.sonnettech.com](http://www.sonnettech.com)  
**PRICE:** \$89.95  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac with available PCI slot, Mac OS 10.2.3 for FireWire 800 (10.2.5 recommended)

**GOOD NEWS:** Groovy purple circuit board.  
**BAD NEWS:** Costliest card—by 95 cents. Optional power cable not included.

**MacAddict RATED**  
  
**SOLID**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO

## Cobra FireWire 800/USBII HD

### FIREWIRE 800 HARD DRIVE

Got data? Purveyors of digital media—electronic musicians, photographers, videographers, and anyone who works with huge files—know that a hard drive can never be too fast or too capacious. EZQuest's latest Cobra model, a 250MB beast supporting high-speed FireWire 800 and USB 2.0, fills the bill. And in case your Mac isn't ready for the next-generation interfaces, the drive is backward compatible, running just as well (but slower) when connected via FireWire 400 or USB 1.1.

Inside the Cobra's case is a whopping 250GB ATA/100 7,200-rpm hard drive equipped with the industry standards for this type of storage device: an 8MB cache buffer for quicker access to frequently used data and the new Oxford 922 FireWire 800 bridge. In layman's terms, think honkin' big and honkin' fast.

EZQuest includes everything you need to use the drive with your Mac—and then some: nine-pin-to-nine-pin and six-pin-to-nine-pin FireWire cables (for FireWire 800 and 400, respectively), and a USB cable. The Cobra also comes with Dantz Retrospect Express for automating your data backups, and Intech Speed Tools for setting up the drive. Speed Tools isn't required, though—Mac OS X recognized the drive unassisted.

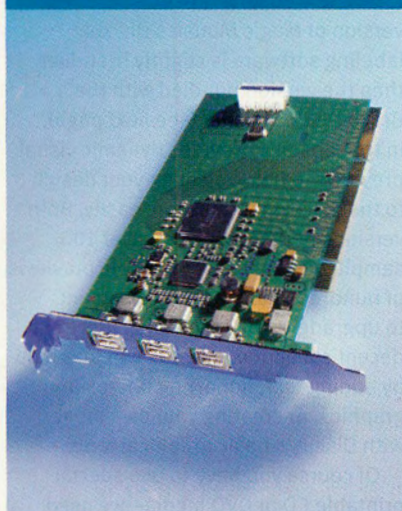
In action, the Cobra matched similar FireWire 800 drives we've reviewed from LaCie and Other World Computing (see *Reviews*, Jun/03, p47, and Jul/03, p53, respectively), reading and

**Don't let the chubby case fool you: This Cobra FireWire 800 drive is screamin' fast.**





## LACIE FIREWIRE 800 PCI CARD



**COMPANY:** LaCie

**CONTACT:** 503-844-4500, [www.lacie.com](http://www.lacie.com)

**PRICE:** \$79

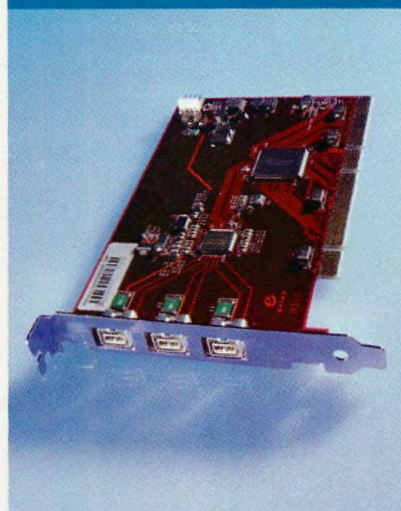
**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac with available PCI slot, Mac OS 10.2.4 for FireWire 800

**GOOD NEWS:** Nothing special.

**BAD NEWS:** Optional power cable not included.



## MERCURY FIREWIRE 800 PCI



**COMPANY:** Other World Computing

**CONTACT:** 800-275-4576, [www.fastermacs.com](http://www.fastermacs.com)

**PRICE:** \$75.99

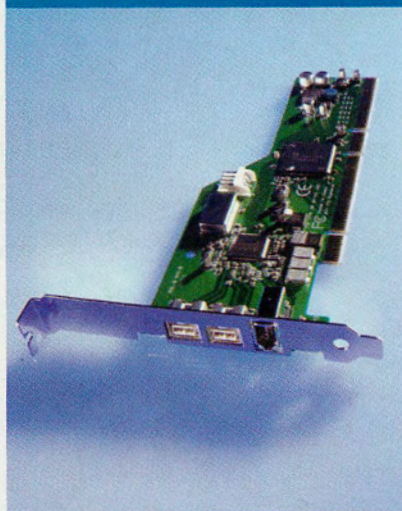
**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac with available PCI slot, Mac OS 10.2.3 for FireWire 800 (10.2.5 recommended)

**GOOD NEWS:** Least expensive card. Groovy purple circuit board.

**BAD NEWS:** Optional power cable not included.



## ORANGELINK FIREWIRE 800/1394B PCI CARD



**COMPANY:** Orange Micro

**CONTACT:** 714-779-2772, [www.orangemicro.com](http://www.orangemicro.com)

**PRICE:** \$89

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac with available PCI slot, Mac OS 10.2.4 for FireWire 800

**GOOD NEWS:** Six-pin FireWire 400 port. Includes BTV Pro video software.

**BAD NEWS:** Optional power cable not included.



writing our 2GB test file at up to 42MB per second. The same test topped out at 30 MBps when we connected the Cobra to our Dual 1.25GHz test Mac's FireWire 400 port. Reading and writing smaller files, both a single 100MB file and a 100MB folder of 4MB files, the Cobra performed within milliseconds of the Mercury Elite Pro—for example, both drives read and wrote 100MB to and from our test Mac's FireWire 800 port in 2 to 3 seconds.

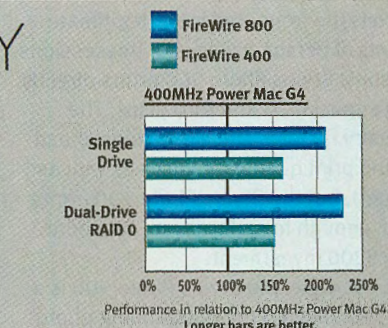
For even better performance, we took two Cobras and used Mac OS X's Disk Utility to stripe them together into a high-speed 500GB RAID 0 (redundant array of independent disks) volume. This setup achieved sustained speeds in the 50-MBps neighborhood. That may not sound like much compared to FireWire 800's theoretical maximum of 100 MBps, but in real-world use, a sustained 50 percent of most throughput specifications' theoretical maximum is very speedy indeed—AirPort wireless networking,

## FIREWIRE RALLY

Rather than chart out the more or less identical performance of the EZQuest Cobra when connected to each of the four FireWire 800 upgrade cards reviewed here, we cooked up this chart to show the metrics of FireWire 400 versus FireWire 800, both on single-drive volumes and on two Cobras striped together in a RAID 0 array.

for example, makes half of its claimed top speed sporadically, and only under ideal circumstances.

It's hard to complain about the 250GB Cobra: It's fast, reasonably quiet, solidly built, and freakin' huge. On the downside, it's about a hundred bucks more expensive than drives of the same



PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO FIREWIRE 400 ON A 400MHZ POWER MAC G4. LONGER BARS ARE BETTER. TESTS WERE PERFORMED ON A DUAL 1.25MHZ POWER MAC G4 WITH 512MB RAM AND A 400MHZ POWER MAC G4 WITH 192MB RAM, BOTH RUNNING MAC OS 10.2.6.

capacity and speed from EZQuest's competitors. For now, 250MB is the biggest hard drive mechanism you can buy, and EZQuest wraps it up right nice in the Cobra.

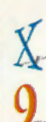
—Niko Coucouvanis

**REQUIREMENTS:** FireWire-equipped Mac (FireWire 800 recommended), Mac OS 8.6 or later

**COMPANY:** EZQuest  
**CONTACT:** 714-694-0031 or 888-898-8380, [www.ezq.com](http://www.ezq.com)  
**PRICE:** \$569

**GOOD NEWS:** Fast. Handsome, stackable case. Includes every cable you might need.

**BAD NEWS:** Internal power supply necessitates noise-inducing fan. More expensive than the competition.







Epson's Stylus Photo 900 brings CD and DVD printing to the masses.

# Stylus Photo 900

## INKJET PHOTO AND DISC PRINTER

In the time-honored tradition of vanity license plates, souvenir-from-the-mall T-shirts with your face emblazoned across the front, and more-legitimate forms of personalizing your possessions, Epson's Stylus Photo 900 prints directly onto special CD and DVD discs. The novelty factor is still a few steps ahead of the print quality (on discs as well as paper), but the Stylus Photo 900 prints well enough to make us feel OK about the \$200 investment.

Spec-wise, the Stylus Photo 900 is a respectable but not outstanding photo printer, providing borderless prints at 4 by 6, 5 by 7, 8 by 10, and 8.5 by 11 inches; resolution up to 5,760 by 720 dots per inch; and claimed print speeds of 9 pages per minute for black text and 50 seconds per 4 by 6 color photo. Those speeds, however, are at the printer's lowest quality, no-frills setting—a borderless 4 by 6 at top quality took over 8 minutes.

Print quality is good, but there's a catch—it's only good at the higher-quality settings. In the default

Automatic mode, we tried both available options: Speed and Quality. Both had extremely poor shadow detail. Crank it up to Advanced Settings and pick Best Photo or Photo RPM (resolution performance management), and you'll get a darn good print, with tight details in the shadow areas and good color accuracy—but it'll cost you about half an hour.

Text came out only slightly fuzzy at 12 points—pretty good for a photo printer—and was still legible, though fuzzier, at 5 points.



This handy tray helps keep discs from becoming coasters.

The printer's best trick—printing on discs—took about 4.5 minutes per disc (3.5 at low quality). Epson's bundled version of Magic Mouse's Discus labeling software is slightly friendlier than the version bundled with the Bravo Disc Publisher (see next page), in that Epson's provides dynamic visual previews to help you align your design to the discs' margins more easily. Both versions of Discus include over 100 sample designs, plus unusable previews of hundreds more as an enticement to upgrade to the full version. It's a decent collection, and you can jazz it up by adding text, importing photos and graphics, or creating your own labels with Discus's basic graphical tools.

Of course you have to use special printable CD or DVD media—we used Memorex Printable CD-R media (30 on a spindle for \$14.99, [www.memorex.com](http://www.memorex.com)). Don't expect crystal-clear prints—all of our disc prints came out sharp enough, but with disappointingly dull, muted colors.

The 900 uses two ink cartridges, one for black, one for the other five colors (cyan, magenta, yellow, light cyan, light magenta); replacing them will set you back \$23.70 and \$28.45, respectively. Epson boasts of its special large-capacity color tanks affording more color prints per cartridge, but we weren't terribly impressed to see the Remaining Ink Level readout dip below 50 percent after about four dozen photo prints at the Quality setting: 12 each at 8.5 by 11, 5 by 7, and 4 by 6, and 12 CDs.

If you're still labeling your CDs and DVDs the old-fashioned way, by printing on adhesive labels which you then stick on the disc—or going *really* old school and using a marker—more power to ya. If you want to do it right (and quell your fears about sticking a paper-labeled disc into the oh-so-slim slot-loading optical drive in your PowerBook), it's worth putting up with the less-than-photo-quality disc prints—especially if you regularly give discs as gifts or are really anal about keeping your backups labeled. Neatly labeled.

—Niko Coucouvanis



**COMPANY:** Epson  
**CONTACT:** 800-463-7766,  
[www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com)  
**PRICE:** \$199

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped  
Mac, Mac OS 8.6 to 9.x or 10.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Lets you label discs without resorting to markers or stick-on labels. Included Discus software is easy and capable.

**BAD NEWS:** Good prints take a loooooong time. Disc printing is weak.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SOLID**



# Bravo Disc Publisher

DISC PUBLISHING SYSTEM

We're all about working smart—which means deputizing technology to do our grunt work so we can focus on more important stuff, like golf. Primera's Bravo Disc Publisher takes the tedium out of duplicating CDs, combining a 52X CD burner and four-color inkjet printer, and tying it all together with a smart robotic arm that moves discs from input tray to burner to printer to output tray while you sit around looking smart—or dumb, if golf knickers are your thing.

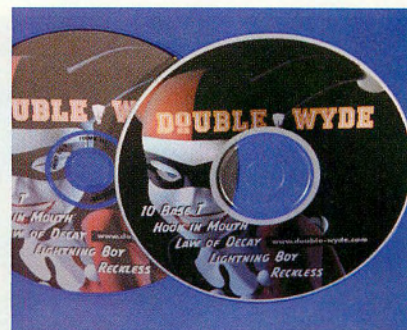
**The Bravo's prints came out at near-photo quality.**

We passed on the recommended test run and loaded up the Bravo with 25 blank discs. The burning phase was a short shift with Bravo's 52X burner under the hood, but printing took some time—about 4 minutes per disc. However, time is irrelevant—well, sort of—since the Bravo system is fully automated. You can load up a job, press the button, and go get a sandwich; that's what we did, and returned to find 25 copies of our band's demo CD in 2 hours and change.

To our surprise, the Bravo printed discs much more clearly than the Epson

Stylus Photo 900 (see previous page) did—possibly because Bravo prints to discs and discs only, not paper, transparencies, envelopes, roll paper, and discs, as the Epson printer does. The Bravo's prints came out at near-photo quality, without the washed-out look afflicting all of the discs we printed on the Stylus Photo 900. The Bravo even provided accurate colors for the most part—not bad at all for a four-color printer. What's more, discs came out dry enough to stack in the Bravo's output tray—the Epson's printed discs came out tacky enough to pick up a thumbprint.

In the box you get everything you need: smart documentation in the form of a sensible quick-start guide and thorough user manual; FireWire and USB cables for data transfer and device control, respectively; software (Charismac's Discribe for burning and Magic Mouse Production's Discus for designing labels); and ink for the printer. You even get a sample (four pieces) of Primera's printable CD-R media—if you buy this device, you'll surely want more (and lots of it), and Primera sells a dizzying array of supported speeds and bulk-purchase options, as does your



**The Bravo Disc Publisher's output (right) is far superior to that of the Epson Stylus Photo 900 (left).**

local electronics superstore.

An optional Kiosk Mode kit (\$49.95 at Primera's Web site) doubles the Bravo's capacity by using both input and output trays for input, and then depositing the finished discs in a bin on the front of the device.

The included disc-burning and -labeling software works fine, but isn't integrated as smoothly as it could be: You start by mastering the disc in Discribe, an altogether pleasant experience, complete with buffer-underrun protection and test-writing and -printing capabilities (no discs were harmed in our testing). Designating the label introduces a slight hitch: You can navigate to an existing image, or you can launch Discus, design your label, save it as an image, and then return to Discribe and designate the image you just saved—either way, there's no dynamic preview to help align your design to the CD's dimensions. Not a deal killer by any means, but we always appreciate the little niceties of integration, like the visual previews of the disc's outer and inner margin we get when using the full commercial version of Discus (or the one Epson bundles with the 900).

Even though it dashed our *I Love Lucy*-inspired fantasies of automation gone horribly awry, we dig the Bravo Disc Publisher. Though its 25-disc (or optional 50-disc) capacity would be tedious on a really big job, Bravo is just the thing for small-to-medium runs. It's not cheap, but the results aren't cheap-looking either.—Niko Coucouvanis



**This unassuming box burns and prints discs with minimal help from you.**



**COMPANY:** Primera Technology

**CONTACT:** 763-475-6676,

www.primeratechnology.com

**PRICE:** \$1,995 (CD only), \$2,495 (DVD-R/CD-R)

**REQUIREMENTS:** 700MHz G4,

Mac OS 10.2 or later, 128MB RAM,

6GB disk space, FireWire port, USB

port, printable-surface media

**GOOD NEWS:** Great print quality.

Fast burner. Easy to use.

**BAD NEWS:** 25-disc capacity doesn't go far. Expensive.

MacAddict RATED



**GREAT**





**BloodRayne gains energy by consuming enemy blood.**

the best way to vanquish groups of enemies, and its intensity increases as you progress through the game's levels.

Gameplay starts out slow, but picks up about halfway through the two-disc game. First, BloodRayne has to visit a sleepy bayou town in Louisiana to save townies who speak bad Franglais from slothful zombies and mutant spiders called Maraisreq. Yawn.

Then she heads to Argentina for some shooter action, killing off a series of Nazi officers and learning more about the evil they're trying to invoke. The action's somewhat anemic, since to maintain health BloodRayne can simply feed off the hundreds of dim-witted Nazi minions milling around. However, killing Von Blut, the Thule Priest boss, is more challenging. (Hint: Attack from behind.)

About halfway through the Argentinean underground, the plot and combat pick up when BloodRayne fights her blonde and buxom nemesis, Dr. Bathory Mengele (satisfying the classic teenage boy's girl-on-girl fight fetish), and then travels through some graphically creative and beautiful temple underworlds. Finally, she resurfaces in Germany for the best action of the game,

# BloodRayne

THIRD-PERSON ACTION GAME

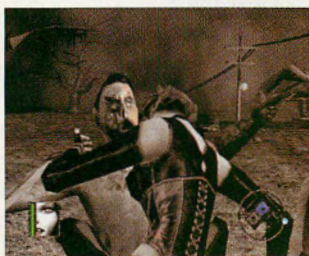
**B**loodRayne is a sexy, stylish, and sadistic game. Its namesake is a buxom half-vampire heroine that dresses for bondage, sounds orgasmic while feeding, and dismembers enemies with panache. Her persona creates high expectations for this action-adventure title, but ultimately she's all dressed up with no place to go—the game's combat and story line are not as creative as she and the rest of the personalities that inhabit it.

Agent BloodRayne makes Lara Croft look like Disney's Little Mermaid. Blame her vampire father, who raped BloodRayne's mother—mindless brutality seems to run in the family. Her half-breed status has its advantages, though: BloodRayne enjoys all a vampire's perks with none of the drawbacks.

Ironically enough, the BloodRayne fights evil—including those ever-reliable villains, the Nazis, who have tapped into an ancient religion that brings the dead back to life to wreak havoc on the world.

BloodRayne has a variety of deadly weapons to vanquish these SS freaks, the first being silver swords attached to her wrists—handy for dismembering Nazis, flying occult worms (called Daemites), full-fledged vampires, and

other baddies. She also has supernatural jumping abilities and three vision modes: Her Aura sense guides her to her next objective and tells her how strong her enemies are. Her Dilated Perception, à la *The Matrix* and *Max Payne*, slows down time so she can dodge bullets in slow-mo. Extruded View gives her long-range sniper vision. BloodRayne also raids dead Nazis and storage crates scattered



**Mutant blood provides energy.**



**Watch out for Blood Rage.**



**Flip-kicking Nazis is fun.**

throughout the game to amass a vast array of pistols, shotguns, machine guns, rocket launchers (our favorite), dynamite, and grenades.

Killing enough enemies works BloodRayne into a frenzy that climaxes into what's called Blood Rage. In this mode, BloodRayne literally sees red while performing mind-blowing acrobatics that send body parts flying and make blood spurt. Blood Rage is

where she combats more Nazis, New Guinean vampires, bat creatures, and so on. And you thought *you* had a tough day.

BloodRayne is entertaining, but once you've been wowed by BloodRayne herself, the game's story line isn't creative enough to capture true adventurers, and its combat isn't inspired enough to satiate die-hard shooters. It's a solid hybrid—but not much more than that. —Narasu Rebbapragada



**COMPANY:** Aspyr Media  
**CONTACT:** 512-708-8100,  
www.aspyr.com  
**PRICE:** \$29.95

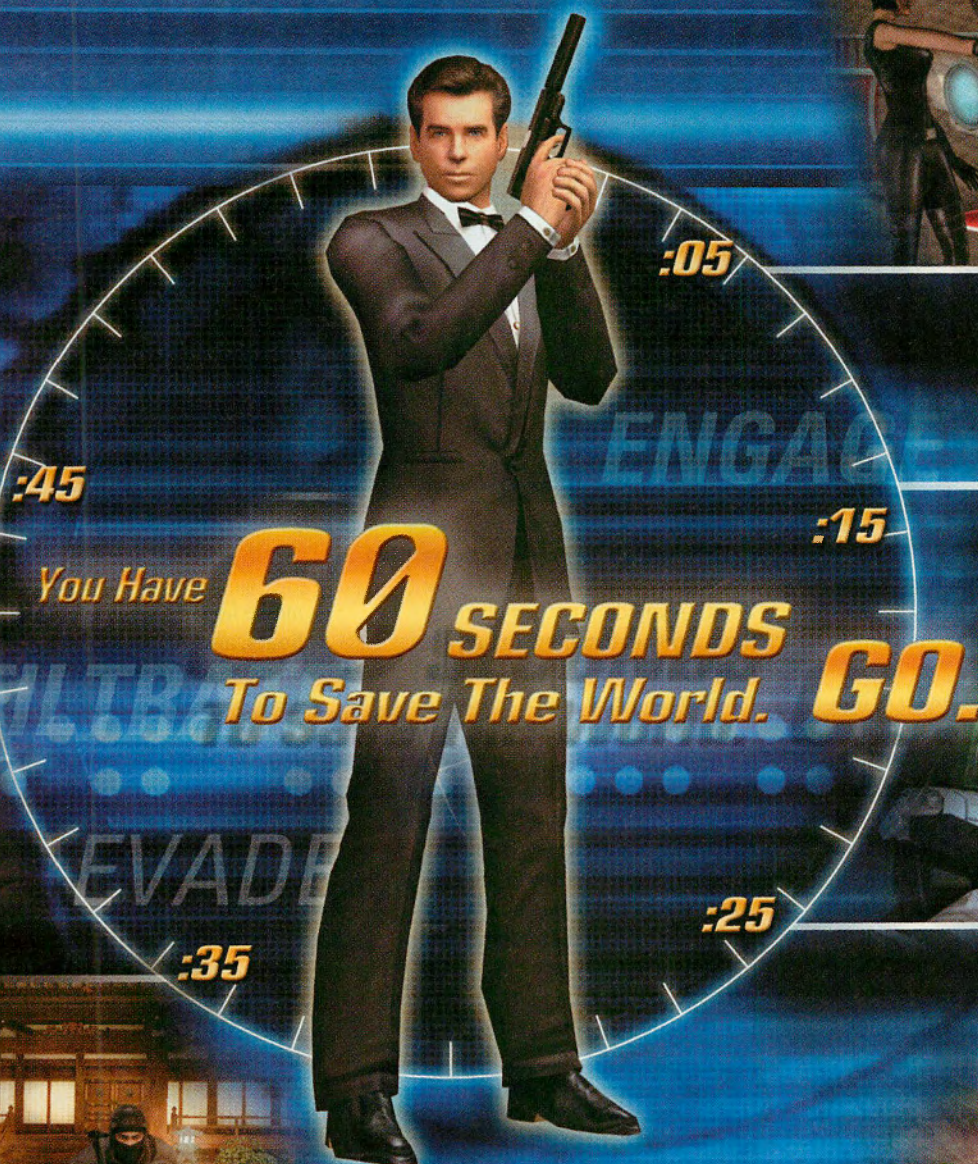
**REQUIREMENTS:** 450MHz G4 or faster, Mac OS 10.2 or later, 256MB RAM, 2GB disk space, graphics card with 32MB VRAM

**GOOD NEWS:** Sexy. Badass dismemberment.  
**BAD NEWS:** Combat uninspired in places.  
Tired story line.

**MacAddict RATED**  
○○○○○  
**SO-SO**



# 007<sup>TM</sup> *nightfire*<sup>TM</sup>



**DO MORE IN ONE MINUTE,**  
than most others do in a lifetime.



**Suggestive Themes  
Violence**



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# Tropico: Mucho Macho Edition

CIVILIZATION-BUILDING STRATEGY GAME

Ay Caramba! Dust off the bongo drums and slap on some sunscreen. Tropico, that refreshing island-domination game, is back for another generation of dictators, political intrigue, tourism, and martial law.

If you missed this tropical-island game the first time around, grab a copy of Tropico: Mucho Macho Edition. In this bargain two-CD package, you get the original Tropico (see *Reviews*, Oct/01, p62), the Tropico: Paradise Island expansion pack, 12 all-new scenarios, more than two hours of award-winning Tropico Latin music, a digital version of the original strategy guide, and a video about the making of the game.

You play the brave new leader of an impoverished small banana republic somewhere in the Caribbean. Your job is to maintain power—how you do that is up to you. You can raise an army and rule your population with an iron fist, or you can turn your mind to economic and social problems and make your islanders happy campers.

It's an easy game to learn, but it's tough to win. Your people are poor, scratching out a living on peon wages.



**Paradise can be a dangerous place:** Here a massive earthquake rips across your tropical isle, while a hurricane rages overhead.

Whether you dominate or placate them, you need money. To rule a happy populace, you must supply better housing, schools, hospitals, entertainment, and jobs. But domination is no cheaper. If you want to keep your people docile and avoid revolution, you need a contented army, and that also costs a lot of pesos.

Subjugation was key in the earlier game. It was fun to see how nasty one could be. But dictatorship and possible overthrow are only part of the package in this version. Now you've got tourism and natural disasters to worry

about. Your island is in the middle of Hurricane Alley, and random hurricanes, tropical storms, and earthquakes can do massive mischief to your economy. Not only do they wipe out buildings and destroy production and infrastructure, they also send tourists fleeing.

There's a bevy of new edicts and construction projects to play with, as well as an extra hour of catchy-island music for easy listening. New buildings include villas, a colonial fort, condominiums, a furniture factory, and an army base (conscript at will, generalissimo). To make life more fun for tourists, there are

movie houses, tennis courts, charter boats, and even miniature golf. Some annoyances have been corrected as well. Workers still mill around, but building has been speeded up, and now you can cancel a construction project and get your money back.

Tropico fans will be pleased by the improvements and extra play, but true delight is reserved for those who never sampled the sly humor and tropical charm of the original. This is easily one of the most creative and entertaining management games you'll ever play.—*John Lee*



**It's good to be da king—a hurricane just flattened most of this landscape, but El Presidente's palace remains unscathed.**



**Keeping tourists happy requires theaters, luxury housing, and diversions such as deep-sea fishing.**



**In a scenario reminiscent of Gilligan's Island, these stranded islanders must build an airport to escape.**

X  
9

**COMPANY:** MacSoft  
**CONTACT:** 763-231-8100,  
<http://tropico.gathering.com>  
**PRICE:** \$19.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** 350MHz G3 or faster,  
Mac OS 9.1 or 10.1.5 or later, 400MB disk  
space

**GOOD NEWS:** Same great Tropico with a lower price,  
way more gameplay, and twice as much great music.  
**BAD NEWS:** Construction can still be slow. Workers  
still mill around.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**GREAT**



# SimCity 4

CIVILIZATION-BUILDING SIM GAME

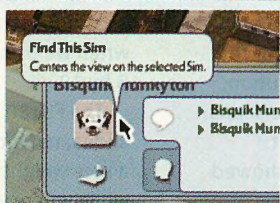
If you have ever wanted to run for political office but were afraid that spotty past of yours might keep you from getting elected, SimCity 4 is the game for you. It lets you create and govern any number of cities in a region and set up their relationships with each other. You have total control, from what your land looks like (flat, mountainous, teeming with deer, and so forth) to the type of community (agrarian, industrial, and so on).

After you choose a region to develop and pick a chunk of pre-divvied-up land, you can go into God mode and use terraforming tools to shape the landscape. God mode also lets you wreak fun havoc like making the sun shine 24-7 or unleashing disasters, such as a tornado or giant attacking robots, on your Sims.

Once you've sculpted the land to your liking, you name your city and start zoning. You've got 100,000 Simoleans to put to work building residential, commercial, and industrial areas in your city. That 100 Large (that's \$100,000) may sound like a princely sum, but don't forget—you also need to build roads; provide power, water, and trash disposal; educate your Sims; and build hospitals, fire stations, and other components of a functioning community. All of this costs money, and therein lies the first challenge: It's *really* easy to go into Michael Jackson-esque debt.

You have to start slow and watch your spending—and because you can't spend money like the proverbial drunken sailor, the game starts out kind of dull.

Another problem: The game was a bit sluggish, even on our Dual 1.25GHz G4s. One look at the graphics explains why—they're incredibly detailed and beautiful when you're zoomed in on your city. Guess we'll need one of those G5s (hint, hint). Speaking of graphics,



**You can import the characters you've created in The Sims. Yes, even pets.**

**Welcome to SimCity 4: urban sprawl at its finest.**

we encountered a couple of little glitches—for instance, when you scroll and sometimes when you zoom, the buildings disappear from view for a moment or two.

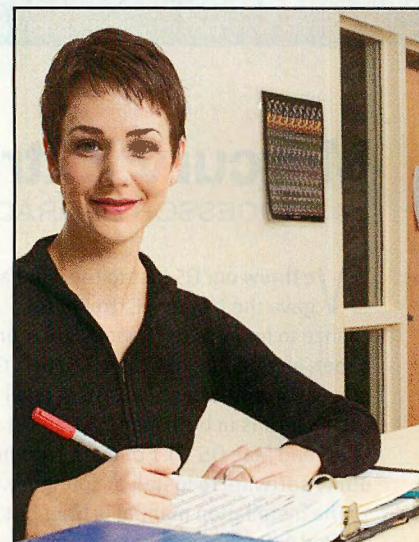
One nice addition is that you can move individual Sims into houses and see what kind of jobs they get. You can even import characters you've created in The Sims—though unfortunately, you can't control them (or watch them shower). The bottom line is that if you like games of this ilk, you'll enjoy this very solid update of a classic.—Cathy Lu

**COMPANY:** Aspyr  
**CONTACT:** 888-212-7797, [www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)  
**PRICE:** \$49.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** 500MHz G3, Mac OS 10.2, 256MB RAM, 1GB disk space, ATI Radeon or nVidia GeForce card (32MB VRAM or better)

**GOOD NEWS:** Beautiful graphics. More control than ever.  
**BAD NEWS:** A few graphical glitches. A little choppy. Gameplay can get boring.

MacAddict RATED  
SOLID



My school can't take the risk of someone accessing our student and administrative files on our old Macs



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## Mercury Extreme G4

### G4 PROCESSOR UPGRADE

We threw our G5 lust to the wind and gave the Mercury Extreme G4 a chance to impress us. It looks great on paper, augmenting its 1.4-1.467GHz G4 processor with a healthy 2MB of level 3 cache. It runs in both Mac OS 9 (9.2.1 or later) and Mac OS 10.1 or later, with no utility software to install or configure.

The installation manual is brief but packed with enough photos and a jumper-block diagram so that installing the card in any supported Mac is relatively simple—we got it into our 400MHz G4 inside 10 minutes.

Since our test Mac is at the bottom of the supported-Macs list, we saw an appreciable but not mind-boggling performance gain. Some Photoshop tasks, like the processor-intensive Unsharp Mask, were up to twice as fast with the new processor, but for

most tasks, including launching Photoshop, the speedup was more in the 25 percent range—not terribly impressive considering we more than tripled our processor's power from 400MHz to 1.4GHz.

The only real glitch we encountered was insomnia; OWC warns that the Mercury Extreme doesn't support deep sleep in some Mac models. Indeed, our Sawtooth G4 dozed off and awoke to a kernel panic. Once we slid the Put Computer To Sleep Whenever It's Inactive For slider to Never, the Mac was rock solid.

We'll hold out for a shiny new G5; if



G4 upgrades like OWC's Mercury Extreme looked much better before Apple announced the G5.

you *have* to squeeze more life out of your early-model G4, you will notice the Mercury Extreme difference and appreciate it.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** Other World Computing  
**CONTACT:** 800-275-4576,  
www.fastermacs.com  
**PRICE:** \$589.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac G4  
AGP Graphics (Sawtooth), Gigabit  
Ethernet, Digital Audio, QuickSilver,  
QuickSilver 2002

**GOOD NEWS:** Less than half the price of a new Power Mac.

**BAD NEWS:** G5 Power Macs are right around the corner. Sleep disorder.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SOLID**

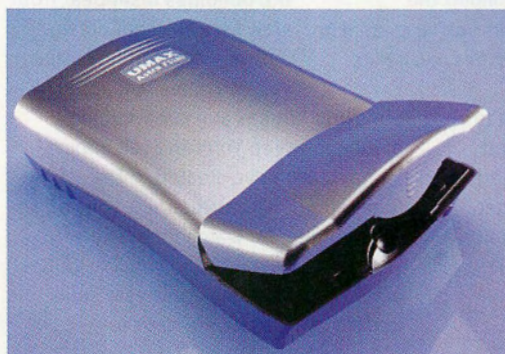
## Astra FS180

### FILM SCANNER

Consumer-level film scanners are a rare breed. Umax's Astra FS180 is a fine specimen with easy operation, high-quality output, and a potentially fatal flaw—it doesn't work in Mac OS X.

This single-pass, 32-bit color film scanner accepts 35mm roll film, slides, or filmstrips, and offers hardware resolutions as high as 1,800 by 1,800 dpi, with interpolated resolutions reaching 3,600 by 3,600 dpi. Scan quality is surprisingly good, approaching the quality of some of the big-bucks Nikon film scanners we've tested. Color renditions are very accurate, fine details are crisp and clear—the quality of the scans are comparable to those provided on a CD from your local photo-finisher.

When we scanned 35mm slides at the FS180's maximum optical resolution, and printed 8 by 10 prints of the scans, the output quality was excellent. Interpolated-resolution scans showed some image degradation, especially



A good price, good scan quality, and a nice software bundle make the FS180 a good choice—if you don't mind scanning in OS 9.

when we printed images larger than 8 by 10.

The FS180 easily accommodates slides, roll film, and cut film, and has a nice weighty base that stays in place while you're loading your film. Bundled software includes Adobe Photoshop Elements and SilverFast SE; a USB cable is also included. The feature-rich SilverFast SE scanner driver will run in Mac OS X, but it won't recognize the FS180—not even in the Classic environment. Photoshop Elements and the way-competent SilverFast SE certainly are a bodacious bundle, but the scanner's lack of support for OS X kills the deal for us. That complaint aside, the FS180 is a fine choice—if you're content to live in the past.—*Rick Sanchez*



**COMPANY:** Umax  
**CONTACT:** www.umax.com  
**PRICE:** \$199

**REQUIREMENTS:** PowerPC, Mac  
OS 8.6 to 9.2, 64MB RAM, 30MB disk  
space, 2X CD-ROM drive, USB port

**GOOD NEWS:** High-quality scans. USB cable included. Good price.

**BAD NEWS:** Not compatible with OS X. Disappointing interpolated-resolution scans.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SO-SO**





# Ice Creme

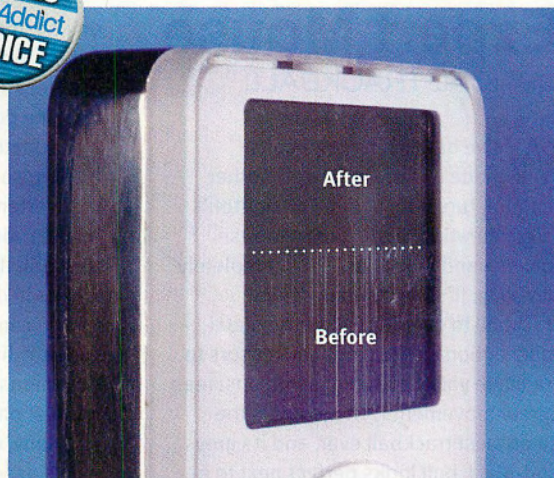
ACRYLIC POLISH AND SCRATCH REMOVER

Who says chemicals can't bring happiness? We're jumping for joy after trying RadTech's Ice Creme. This iPod-refinishing kit consists of industrial-strength acrylic polishing compounds that usually come only in 55-gallon drums, which the company has repackaged for the express purpose of restoring our abused iPods and iBooks to their rightful glory.

To our delight and amazement, we used the included polishing cloths to wipe the scratches right off our iPod's battered face—and we're talking serious, deep scratches, as you can see in the photo at right. The kit comes with two bottles of acrylic finisher, one for light abrasions, one for more severe wounds; RadTech also provides

a couple of small chamois polishing cloths. For another \$5, you can upgrade to Ice Creme M, which adds a metal polisher for cleaning an iPod's backside. Ice Cream M put a great shine on our iPod's back, but couldn't undo the damage of our prior beer-fueled indiscretions with a Dremel moto-tool engraver.

Simply put, Ice Creme made our beat-to-hell iPod look like it was fresh off the assembly line, and we've got plenty of each compound left over—enough, we'd estimate, for at least a dozen more such heavy-duty polishings. The unfortunate



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

**Before Ice Creme, we could barely see our iPod's screen; afterward, we couldn't believe our eyes!**

iPodless might not understand, but this is a huge deal. We are basking in the restored beauty of our 'Pods. Thanks, RadTech!—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** RadTech  
**CONTACT:** 314-960-9188,  
www.radtech.us  
**PRICE:** \$19.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** iPod, iBook, or  
any other scratched-up acrylic surface

**GOOD NEWS:** Made our scratched-to-the-bejeezus  
iPod look brand new again.  
**BAD NEWS:** Doesn't work on eyeballs, eyeglasses,  
or LCDs.

**MacAddict RATED**  
  
**AWESOME**

# Visual Thesaurus 2.0

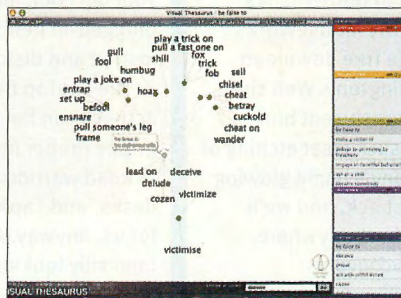
THESAURUS SOFTWARE

Using Visual Thesaurus (VT) is like calling up a thesaurus on the Enterprise's Holodeck or inside Professor Xavier's Cerebro. Its cool factor is indisputable, and will likely elicit an awestruck "neato" from you during first contact. Whether you're in for the long term, however, depends on the way you use reference materials.

Words you enter pop up in the center of the screen, with a matrix of floating lines and colored dots extending out from them. The colors of the dots represent various parts of speech, with each sense of a word categorized and defined in the Meanings sidebar on the right side of the screen.

Black, solid lines show up between your source word and synonyms, dotted red lines show up between the source

word and antonyms, and dotted black lines represent links to related words. For example, a *pantywaist* is the same as a *milquetoast* (black solid line) but is a *type of*—or a hyponym of—*coward* (black dotted line). You can define the types of relationships you want to search for



**Oh, what a tangled web we weave, trying to find a synonym for deceive!**

in the Relationships menu at the top of the screen. You also have the option of viewing your results in 2D or 3D, and you can tweak font size and style to suit your taste. An autopilot feature cycles randomly through words, exposing you to word relationships you may not have previously considered—especially useful for sufferers of writer's block.

A free online version of VT is available, but lacks the Desktop Edition's larger, customizable dictionary; copy-and-paste and print capabilities; and, obviously, the ability to work offline.

VT is outstanding for exploring relationships between words, and ideal for brainstorming ideas in work and education. If its desktop-only features are important to you, VT is worth buying. If not, or if you use a thesaurus only occasionally, you can still enjoy the free online version or stick with other online or print synonym finders.

—*Jenifer Morgan*



**COMPANY:** Plumb Design  
**CONTACT:** 212-285-8600,  
www.visualthesaurus.com  
**PRICE:** \$29.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac,  
Mac OS X or later, 128MB RAM

**GOOD NEWS:** Neato design. Fun. Useful.  
**BAD NEWS:** You can find thesaurus references for free  
on the Internet.

**MacAddict RATED**  
  
**GREAT**



## Expert Mouse

### OPTICAL TRACKBALL

We've been using trackballs made by Kensington and other manufacturers for years. Kensington's latest iteration of the Expert Mouse moves—and moves us—in a completely new way: It's the company's first trackball to evolve beyond the usual roller action and use optical sensors to translate your ball rollings into onscreen cursor movements. The result is the smoothest trackball ever, and its grey-and-black hull looks perfect next to a Power Mac G5. An included snap-on wrist pad helps you avoid stressing your wrist.

Another first is the Expert Mouse's unique scroll wheel. Doubling as a jog-wheel controller for scrubbing through audio or video tracks, the raised ring that skirts the ball is exactly what a trackball needs. Unlike mouse-bound scroll wheels (such as the one

on Kensington's Expert Mouse Pro trackball), this one doesn't also function as a button, so you won't inadvertently press it when you want to scroll. It's over 2 inches in diameter, so you can work it with any finger of your mousing hand, not just one or two.

Finally, as anyone who's used a trackball for more than a week knows, cleaning the thing is usually a royal pain, involving screwdrivers, Q-tips, toothpicks, and lots of cussing—and it's even worse if your workspace is pet friendly. The Expert Mouse's optical technology means it doesn't have any moving parts to collect dust and animal hair, though you'll want to periodically



If Batman used a trackball, it'd be this one.

pull out the ball and wipe off the three frictionless contact points, which collect bits of dust, dirt, and whatever minor crud your fingers impart to the ball.

So it looks great, works superbly, and requires minimal care and feeding; what's not to love? Even though it's called *Expert Mouse*, this is our favorite trackball ever.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** Kensington  
**CONTACT:** 800-235-6708,  
www.kensington.com  
**PRICE:** \$127.95, \$99.95 (street)

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped  
Mac, Mac OS X

**GOOD NEWS:** Badass black styling. Supreme optical action. Integrated jog-wheel controller is way better than a regular scroll wheel.

**BAD NEWS:** Nothing significant.

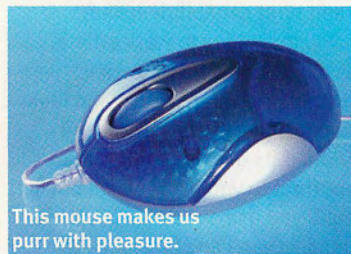
MacAddict RATED



## PocketMouse SE

### TRAVEL MOUSE

The perfect travel mouse is small, but not too small; lightweight, but not fly-away featherweight; outfitted with a cord that's long and lean (4 feet and thin as a wisp) and maybe a handy drawstring carrying pouch; and since we'll be plugging it into a Mac, we naturally expect it to look and work great. Kensington's dapper little PocketMouse SE fits the bill. It's a two-button, scroll-wheel-equipped mite with smooth lines and smoother action—thanks



This mouse makes us purr with pleasure.

to the mighty MouseWorks software (a free download from Kensington's Web site).

Add a translucent blue top and a slick laser etching of the company's name glowing red on the back, and we'll take this thing anywhere.

—*Niko Coucouvanis*

**COMPANY:** Kensington  
**CONTACT:** 800-235-6708  
www.kensington.com

**PRICE:** \$39.95 (\$29.99 street)  
**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped Mac,  
Mac OS 8.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Cool look. Great action. Smart design.  
**BAD NEWS:** Too small to use all the time.



## LapTop Desk 2.0

### LAPTOP STAND

The worst thing about using a laptop—on your lap—is the dreaded hunchback effect you get trying to read the screen. The LapTop Desk 2.0 won't cure your hunchies, but it'll keep your lap cool, and help keep any plugged-in items from getting jostled and dislodged.

The LapTop Desk doubles as a tabletop stand, which actually *can* help your posture while cooling your laptop. A grippy rubber lining also helps keep your laptop in place.

Road warriors have survived this long without portable desks, and LapTop Desk 2.0 isn't going to change that—not for us, anyway. At nearly a pound and a half, it's just too bulky (and silly looking) for frequent fliers.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



We'll leave this portable desk at home.

**COMPANY:** LapWorks  
**CONTACT:** 877-527-9675 or  
909-948-1828, www.laptopdesk.net

**PRICE:** \$29.95  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Laptop computer,  
lap or table

**GOOD NEWS:** Sturdier than it looks. Elevates and cools table-bound laptops.  
**BAD NEWS:** Too bulky and silly for travel.





# DLO Action Jacket

## IPOD CASE

Your low-to-medium-impact digital lifestyle is a dangerous place for an unprotected iPod. The DLO Action Jacket, a neoprene wet suit for iPods, protects your third-generation 10GB, 15GB, or 30GB iPod with rubberized edges, a scratch-absorbing plastic face, and secure velcro closures that look like cartoon-bunny ears—and provide easy access to the hold switch and headphone jack up top.

The integrated belt straps, removable clip, and included arm strap give you plenty of ways to affix the jacket to your workout outfit, however skimpy the latter may be. For the record, we wouldn't be caught dead using the arm strap, but otherwise this is a right solid case.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



Not as waterproof as it looks.

**COMPANY:** Netalog

**CONTACT:** 919-382-3227, [www.everythingipod.com](http://www.everythingipod.com)

**PRICE:** \$29.99

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Docking iPod

**GOOD NEWS:** Neoprene rocks. Good surface protection.

**BAD NEWS:** Weird reverse-tuxedo look. Not much impact protection.

MacAddict RATED



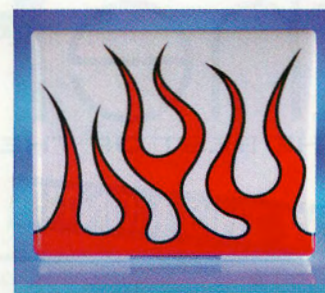
SOLID

# MacSkinz

## IBOOK COVER

We love our iBook, but sometimes it's just too white. MacSkinz covers make it easy to customize your 12-inch iBook with American flags, smiley faces, skulls (with or without crossbones), solid colors, patterns, bold graphics—even a clear cover you can fill with your own images to truly personalize your iBook.

The skinz are thinner than a credit card and include double-sided adhesive tape that sticks fast and didn't leave a mark when we deskin our iBook—but the tape did lose a little stickiness, so we'll just leave it on. The company plans to release skinz for 14-inch iBooks soon, and already makes 'em for the side-opening case used on the Blue-and-White G3 and every G4 tower.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

Now that's thinkin' different!

**COMPANY:** MacSkinz

**CONTACT:** [www.macskinz.com](http://www.macskinz.com)

**PRICE:** \$30

**REQUIREMENTS:** 12-inch iBook

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy, nondestructive modification.

**BAD NEWS:** We want every version.

MacAddict RATED



GREAT

Three award-winning products • Now available in one powerful package



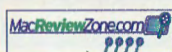
# Data Safety Suite

Backup, Undelete and Recover your valuable data

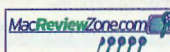
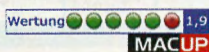
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Data Backup

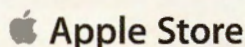


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or call 1877-4PROSOFT



# theHotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

**SHOPPING?**  
HERE'S WHAT WE  
RECOMMEND

## NEW THIS MONTH



## Reason 2.5

You thought version 2 of this audio app was cool? Well, you were right—but version 2.5 is even cooler, inspiring contributing editor and audio guru David Biedny to sprinkle his review with words like “awesome” and “incredibly useful.”



## Final Cut Pro 4

Final Cut Pro has transformed video editing. New to version 4 are powerful features, improved customization, and a quartet of supporting apps. As contributing editor and video pro Helmut Kobler said in last month's review, “You should jump all over this one.”



## Xserve RAID

When is \$10,999 a bargain? When it buys you a fully loaded Xserve RAID, Apple's exquisitely engineered storage behemoth. Editor in Chief Rik Myslewski sums up our opinion of this speedy beauty in the first words of his review: “We're blown away.”

## SOFTWARE

### AUDIO

MOTU Digital Performer 3	\$795.00	Feb/02, p58	This pro-audio app has a great array of features.
Propellerhead Software Reason 2.5	\$449.00	Sep/03, p55	It's earned its reputation as the top software sound studio.
Roxio Toast with Jam 5	\$189.95	Sep/02, p49	Burn CDs, MP3 CDs, DVDs, and VCDs, and edit audio.

### GAMES

Aspyr Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast	\$49.95	Feb/03, p37	Fantastic gameplay with both weapons and The Force.
Aspyr NASCAR Racing 2002 Season	\$39.99	May/03, p57	Realistic NASCAR racing on a Mac? Believe it.
Aspyr The Sims Unleashed	\$29.95	May/03, p58	Pixel-pets abound in the best Sims expansion pack yet.
MacPlay No One Lives Forever	\$49.99	Mar/03, p49	A beautiful spy, sly foes, nifty gadgets, fast action—nice.

### GRAPHICS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign 2.0	\$699.00	May/02, p50	Look out, Quark—Adobe's rival layout tool kicks butt.
Adobe Photoshop 7	\$609.00	Jul/02, p46	Picture-perfect pixel pusher moves to Mac OS X.
Adobe Photoshop Elements 2	\$99.00	Dec/02, p40	This has most of Photoshop's power for \$500 less.
FontLab 4.5.2	\$549.00	May/03, p53	The font editor all we type geeks have been waiting for.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX	\$399.00	Sep/02, p44	Our favorite Web-design tool gets a strong upgrade.
Macromedia Flash MX	\$499.00	Jul/02, p51	It started in animation; now it can do anything.
Macromedia FreeHand MX	\$399.00	Jun/03, p49	In the race with Adobe Illustrator, FreeHand pulls ahead.

### PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES

Apple Keynote	\$99.00	Apr/03, p48	This presentation app was built for Mac OS X—and it shows.
Bare Bones Software BBEdit 7.0.1	\$179.00	Mar/03, p52	By far the most powerful text editor money can buy.
Microsoft Office v. X	\$499.00	Feb/02, p42	The 800-pound gorilla of productivity applications.
Prolific Publishing Marine Aquarium 2	\$19.95	Aug/03, p54	OK, it's just a screensaver—but it's the coolest one ever.

### VIDEO & ANIMATION

Adobe After Effects 5.5	\$649.00	May/02, p49	This motion-graphics stud improves its 3D powers.
Apple DVD Studio Pro 1.5	\$499.00	Oct/02, p55	Apple's essential DVD-burning app gets even better.
Apple Final Cut Pro 4	\$999.00	Sep/03, p44	This kick-ass video-editor now includes four new apps.

## HARDWARE

### ACCESSORIES

CharisMac FireWire Dino	\$69.95	Jul/03, p55	Run for your lives! Leapin' lizards, it's a FireWire 400 hub!
Dr. Bott's extendAIR Direct	\$149.95	May/03, p51	Make AirPort Extreme's range noticeably more extreme.
MacWireless Power Over Ethernet	\$29.98	Jun/03, p61	Mount an AirPort Base Station 250 feet from AC power.
Palm Zire 71	\$299.00	Aug/03, p44	A PDA, digital camera, and MP3 player all rolled into one.
XtremeMac UFO	\$99.95	May/03, p59	If you own a G4 iMac, you gotta get this way-cool hub.

### AUDIO

Apple 15GB iPod	\$399.00	Jul/03, p44	The world's greatest MP3 player gets smaller and cooler.
Digidesign Mbox	\$495.00	May/02, p59	This audio interface is a traveling musician's delight.
Griffin Technology iTrip	\$35.00	Aug/03, p52	This iPod FM transmitter uses the entire frequency range.

### DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon PowerShot S230 Digital Elph	\$399.00	Mar/03, p48	A great 3.2-megapixel camera in a tiny, low-cost package.
Nikon Coolpix 3100	\$359.00	May/03, p43	The best point-and-shoot digicam we've seen yet.
Olympus C-4000 Zoom	\$449.00	Jan/03, p52	Great image quality, 4 megapixels, and versatile controls.

### DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema HD Display	\$1,999.00	Aug/02, p40	This 23-inch, 1,920-by-1,200-pixel beauty inspires lust.
Formac gallery 2010 Platinum	\$1,399.00	Jan/03, p47	Bright, fast, huge—and it costs only \$.0007 per pixel.

### PRINTERS

Brother HL-1870N	\$699.00	Aug/02, p45	Need a sturdy laser printer? This one's a workhorse.
Epson Stylus Photo 2200	\$699.00	Oct/02, p42	The most stunning photo printer we've ever tested.

### SCANNERS

Canon CanoScan LIDE 30	\$79.99	Nov/02, p52	This entry-level scanner gets the job done inexpensively.
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### STORAGE

Apple Xserve RAID	\$10,999.00	Sep/03, p47	Even priced over \$10K, this righteous RAID is still a bargain.
LaCie d2 200GB FireWire 800	\$419.00	Jun/03, p47	FireWire 800 speed meets solid-as-a-rock construction.
Maxtor Personal Storage 5000XT	\$349.95	Feb/03, p44	Solid construction, push-button backup, and 250GB.
OWC Mercury Elite Pro	\$339.99	Jul/03, p53	This 180GB FireWire 800 drive outpaces the competition.



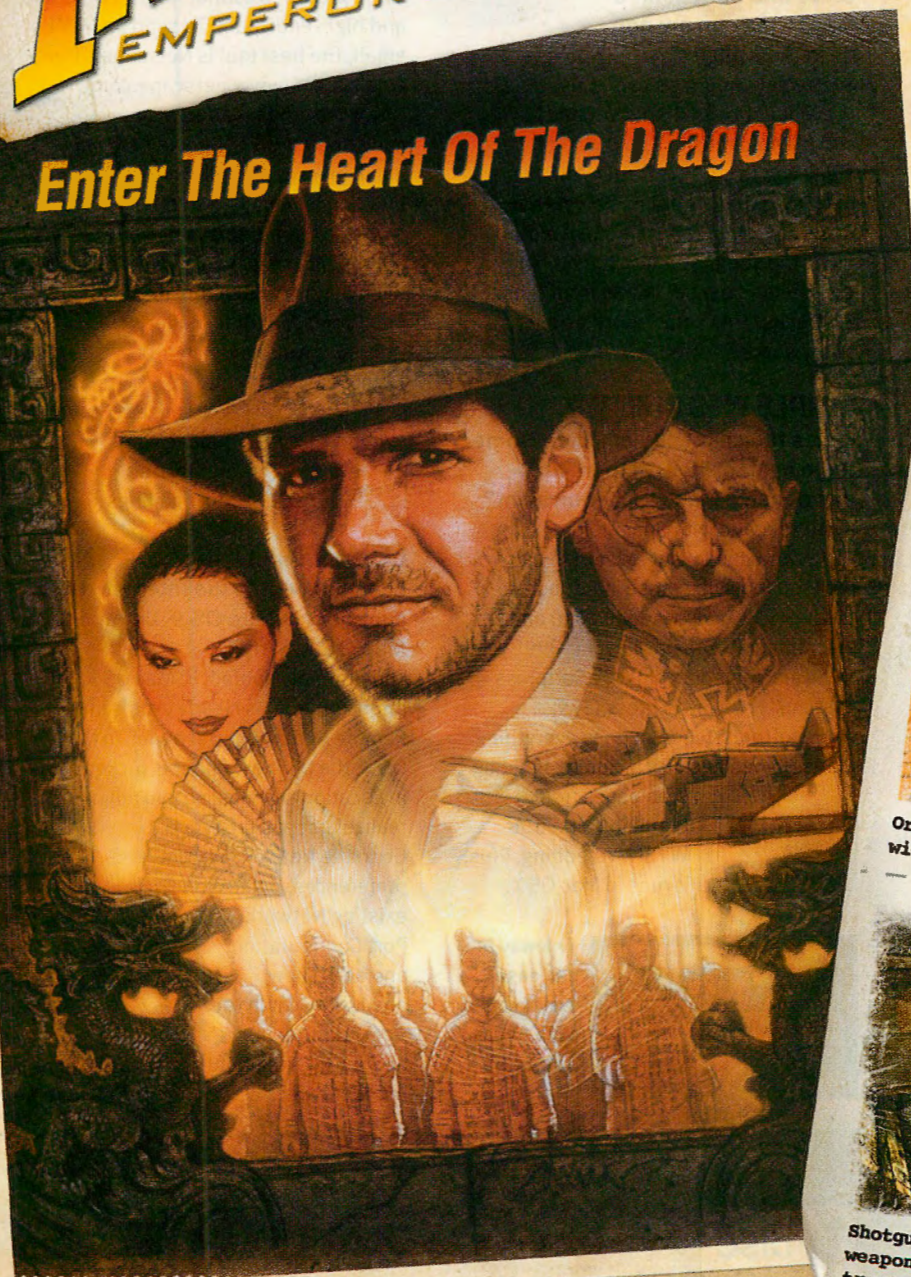
Northern

LUCASARTS ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY PRESENTS

# INDIANA JONES

AND THE  
EMPEROR'S TOMB™

## Enter The Heart Of The Dragon



Violence



Mac



ASPYR

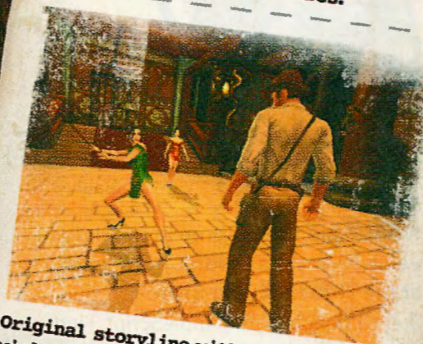


[www.lucasarts.com](http://www.lucasarts.com)  
[www.aspyr.com](http://www.aspyr.com)

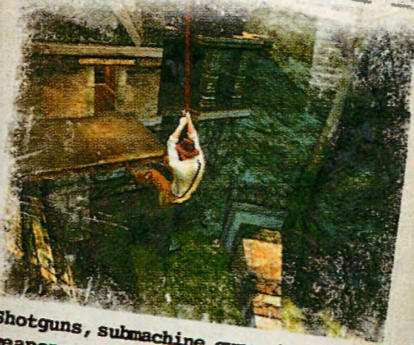
FIG. 4



Leap, swim, climb and punch your way through exotic locales.

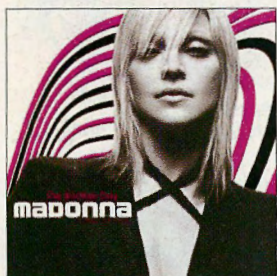


Original storyline with new villains, wicked enemies and an alluring partner.



Shotguns, submachine guns, improvised weapons – and of course, Indy's trusty whip and pistol.



GOT A QUESTION?  
NEED ADVICE?**ask  
us** WE CAN HELP

Add album artwork to iTunes.

**ADD ARTWORK****Where can I get album artwork to use with tracks I didn't purchase at the iTunes Music Store?**

Brett O'Connor's free AppleScript, Find Album Artwork with Google, searches Google Images for artwork you can drag from your browser into the iTunes artwork



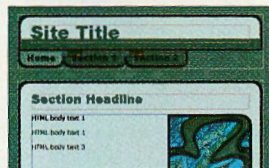
box (click the arrow-in-a-box icon in the lower-left corner of the iTunes window). More

useful scripts are available at Doug's AppleScripts ([www.malcolmadams.com](http://www.malcolmadams.com)).**AAC TO MP3****How can I turn the files I purchased from Apple's iTunes Music Store into normal MP3 files to play on my non-iPod MP3 player?**

You're not supposed to do this. To prevent unlawful distribution of copyrighted music, Apple won't allow you to convert iTunes AAC files to MP3 format. There is, however, a workaround. Create an actual audio CD of the songs you purchased, and then rip and encode MP3s from those CD tracks. This solution isn't pretty, but it works.

**SIMPLE WEB BUILDER****I miss the simplicity of Claris Home Page in Mac OS 9. Is there an inexpensive Mac OS X equivalent?**If you're bored with .Mac Home Pages and don't want to learn to use pro Web tools like those in Adobe's GoLive (\$399, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) and Macromedia's Dreamweaver (\$399, [www.macromedia.com](http://www.macromedia.com)), try Softpress Systems' Freeway Express (\$79, [www.softpress.com](http://www.softpress.com)). It does everything Claris Home Page did, including building

Web pages from templates and true WYSIWYG editing. Plus, it runs in Mac OS X.

**Freeway is the easy way to build Web pages in Mac OS X.****HTML EMAIL****How can I send HTML email in Mac OS X?**HTML email looks like a Web page and is the preferred format for e-newsletters and high-end spam. To send an HTML email, the best tool is Netscape's free email client ([www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com)), which lets you insert HTML code and graphics into an email message. If you are building an email newsletter or plan on sending lots of bulk HTML messages, you will need a more robust tool like MaxProg's MaxBulk Mailer X (\$35, [www.maxprog.com](http://www.maxprog.com)), which lets you create**MaxProg's MaxBulk Mailer X helps you manage HTML bulk mail.**

customized mailings and administer bulk mailings.

**COME ON, CONNECT!****I can connect to the Internet via a modem in Mac OS 9, but not in Mac OS X. Why?**

You probably goofed. In Mac OS 9, the phone number is clearly visible in the Remote Access control panel. In Mac OS X, the phone number is tucked away in Location settings, so you might not realize that you mistyped it. Go to the Network system preferences, delete your existing Network Port Configuration, and add a new one. Choose it in the Show pop-up menu and retype the phone number carefully.

**Fixing a faulty modem configuration is simple—just create a new one.****quick  
answers**  
TO QUICK QUESTIONS**MACDRAW X****How can I open old MacDraw files in Mac OS X?**

To open files from this long-discontinued drawing application, use LemkeSoft's GraphicConverter (\$30,

[www.lemkesoft.de](http://www.lemkesoft.de)) or better

yet, use MacDraw itself. Believe it or not, it works great in Classic.

**OPT TO RETURN****How can I type multiple lines in iChat's instant-message dialog? Pressing Return simply sends the message.**

Upgrade to iChat AV, which allows multiple-line text messaging—the text

box expands as you type. To start a new line manually in the same text message, press Option-Return.

**IPHOTO REBUILD****Can I rebuild my iPhoto Library to fix some problems I'm having?**

Yes. Hold down Shift-Option while launching iPhoto to rebuild the picture database from scratch. This will fix a corrupt library but eliminate info such as dates and rolls.

**Rebuild a corrupt iPhoto Library.**



## UNIX UNIVERSITY



### What's with all the invisible folders and files in Mac OS X?

Apple made the whole Unix experience more Mac-like by hiding the confusing and complex portions of the operating system. Each of the invisible folders and files serves an important purpose in running Mac

OS X—deleting them can render your Mac unbootable and unusable. To look at these mysterious items in the Finder, install Marcel Bresink's free TinkerTool utility ([www.bresink.de/osx](http://www.bresink.de/osx)), which lets you see all your hidden files. You can also

Name	Name
AppleShare PDS	Applications
Applications	Applications (Mac OS 9)
Applications (Mac OS 9)	Developer
bin	Documents
cores	Library
Desktop	System
Desktop DB	System Folder
Desktop DF	Users

Files visible.

Files hidden.

type `ls -l` in the Terminal (Applications > Utilities). This shows everything at the root level of your computer. Of particular interest is the file called `mach_kernel`, which is the actual heart of Mac OS X: the kernel. Don't mess with it.

## AUDIO CHATTING

### How can I improve the sound quality of my iChat AV audio chats?

Setting the bandwidth limit in Video preferences to a lower number fixes some audio-quality issues. If you have a broadband connection such as cable or DSL, set the limit to 500 Kbps. If you have dial-up, set it to 100 Kbps.

100 Kbps
200 Kbps
500 Kbps
✓ 1 Mbps
2 Mbps

Set a bandwidth limit to improve iChat AV audio quality.

If it is not blessed, neither Mac OS 9 nor Mac OS X's Classic mode will boot. To bless a Mac OS 9 System Folder in Mac OS X (if Classic isn't launching), open the Startup Disk system preferences and set the Mac OS 9 System Folder as the startup disk. Close and save this setting. Immediately reopen the Startup Disk system preferences and switch back to the original Mac OS X System. Close and save. Your Mac OS 9 System Folder has just been reblessed and should once again be bootable. Amen.



Startup Disk

Bless our OS 9 system folder in Startup Disk system prefs.

## REBLESS YOUR MAC

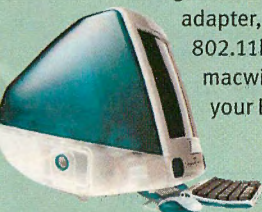
### How do you rebless a Mac OS 9 System Folder in Mac OS X?

When your Mac recognizes your Mac OS 9 System Folder as bootable, it is *blessed*.

## WIRELESS BONDI

### How can I use my original Bondi Blue iMac with an AirPort Base Station?

Even though you can't install an Apple AirPort card in your Bondi iMac, you can get an external 802.11b USB adapter, such as MacWireless's 802.11b USB Adapter (\$99.98, [macwireless.com](http://macwireless.com)), to use with your Base Station.



Give your old iMac an AirPort upgrade.

## GO AWAY, AOL

### The AOL instant messenger icon is stuck in my menu bar.

#### How can I remove him?

To remove the little yellow man, find the file called AIM Menu in System > Extensions. Trash this file and restart your Mac.

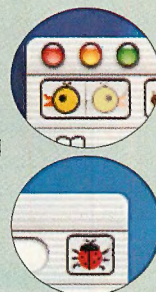


Trash the AIM Menu file to send this guy packing.

## This Month

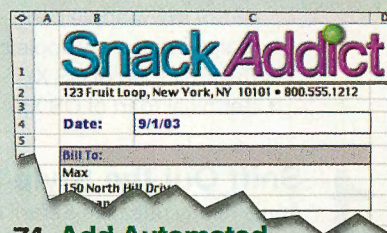
### 66 Customize Safari

Safari 1.0 has arrived—so where are all the cool interface preference tweaks we hoped for? They're buried in system libraries and package contents. Those willing can hack them—or you can take the easy road. The choice is yours.



### 70 Increase Your TiBook's AirPort Range

Go to any Apple convention and you'll see TiBook owners hovering around Base Stations like flies. If your TiBook or PowerBook needs a boost in signal strength, here are the solutions plus a few tips.



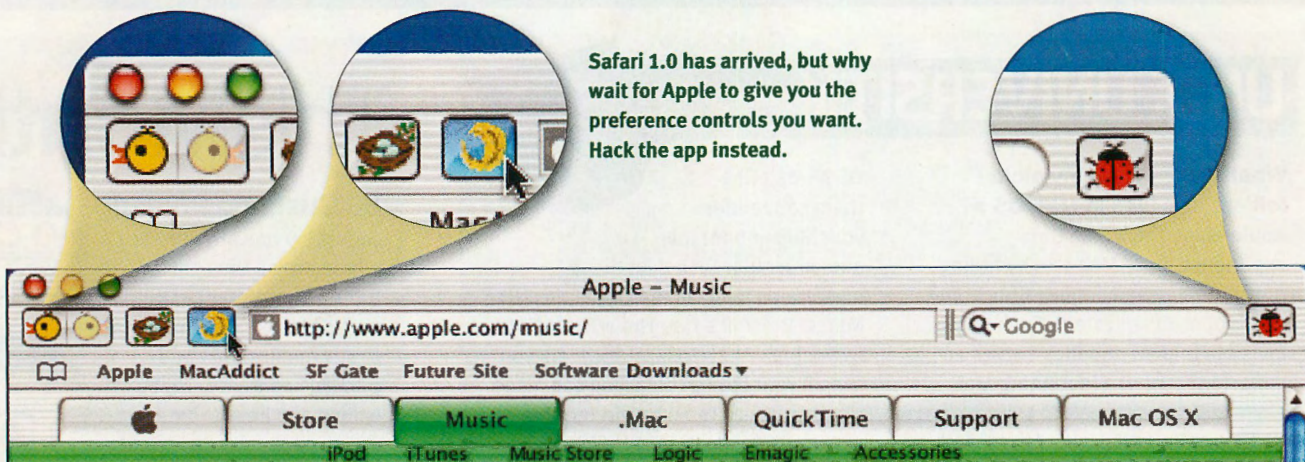
### 74 Add Automated Functions to Excel

We hate filling out spreadsheets just as much as you do. Take the repetitiveness and thought process out of some tasks. We show you how.

Seven years of handling tech support for Apple, Power Computing, and a Texas school district have given Buz Zoller Mac superpowers.

**Submit** technical questions or helpful tips directly via email ([askus@macaddict.com](mailto:askus@macaddict.com)) or c/o MacAddict, 150 North Hill Dr., Brisbane, CA 94005.





Safari 1.0 has arrived, but why wait for Apple to give you the preference controls you want. Hack the app instead.

# Customize Safari

by Kris Fong

We love Safari. Not only because it's superspeedy and features a built-in Google bar, but also because it allows us to abandon that other "adventurous" browser. But we hate a few things too, like the ugly underlined links and metallic Formica façade. We'd also like to be able to customize its button icons. Unfortunately, Apple doesn't

provide any means to alter these things—easily, that is.

With a little effort, however, you can get rid of Safari's link underlines and brushed metal appearance, and create your own button icons. But be forewarned: If you upgrade your version of Safari, all your changes may be lost. Ours were (bye-bye, birdy!).

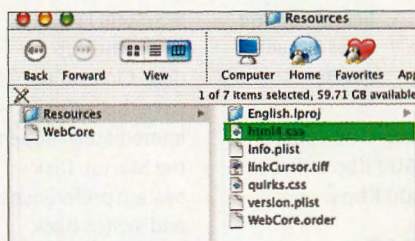
## Remove Underlined Links



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Mac OS 10.2 or later (\$129, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- Safari (free, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- TextEdit (part of OS X)
- Terminal (part of OS X)

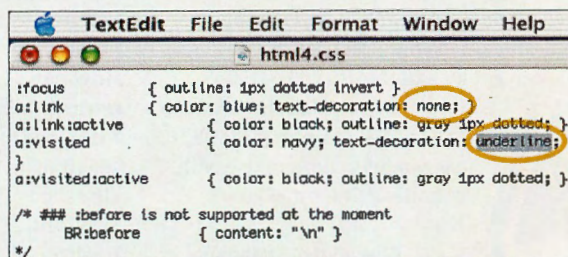
**1 Sniff Out the Style Sheet** When Apple finally released Safari 1.0, it moved Safari's style sheet (html4.css) from the app's easy-to-access package contents (where it had been in beta releases) and embedded it deep within the OS System framework, which makes this hack a little more difficult. Navigate to System > Library > Frameworks >



To alter Safari's default styles, locate its cascading style sheet—it's hidden deep within the bowels of the System folder—and copy it to your desktop.

WebKit.framework > Frameworks > WebCore.framework > Versions > A > Resources > html4.css. Because files and directories this far down are owned by the almighty root, you can't alter the style sheet directly. Instead, you need to hack it out on your desktop, and then call upon the Terminal to help you put things back into place. For now, drag html4.css onto your desktop to copy it.

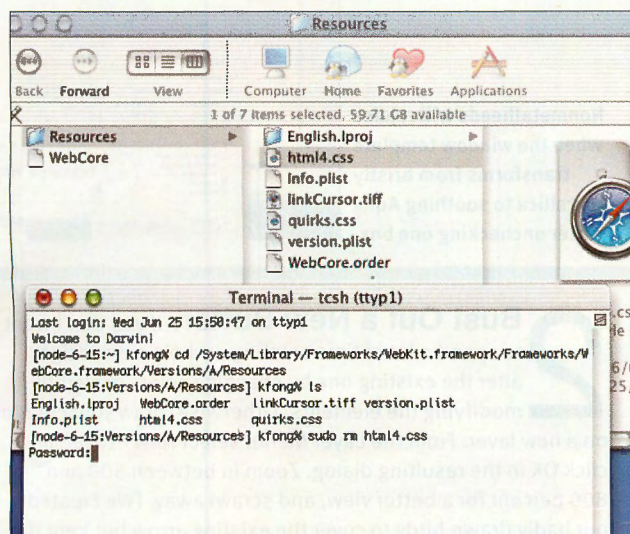
**2 Turn Off the Underlines** Launch TextEdit, then open your desktop version of html4.css by dragging it to the TextEdit icon in the Dock. This document contains code that instructs Safari how to display items such as fonts, text sizes, buttons, alignments, borders, margins, and more. Scroll down to near the bottom of the page until you see the following line: `a:link { color:blue; text-decoration: underline; }`. To remove the underlining of links, change the word `underline` to `none`. Then in the text string two lines below (the one that starts with `a:visited`), change the word `underline` to `none` to remove the underlining of visited links. Then press Command-S to save the file and close the window.



To remove ugly underlines from Web links, replace the word `none` to `underline` in the style sheet.

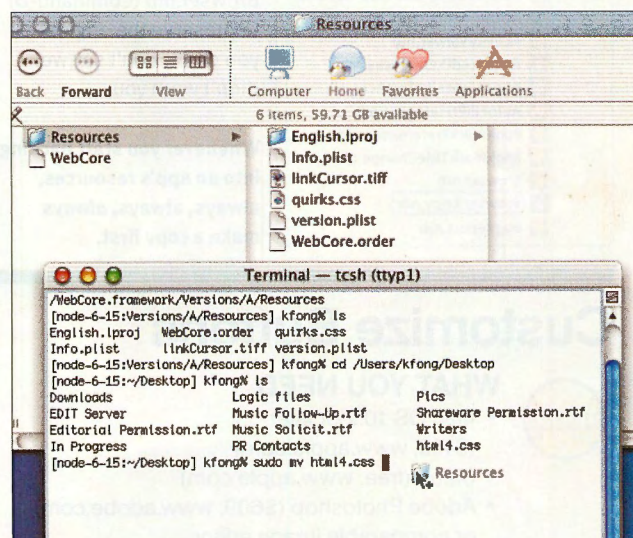


**3 Delete the Original** Since you don't have superpower permission to replace the old style sheet with the new one, have the Terminal grant you that status. To delete the old style sheet, launch the Terminal and at the prompt, type **cd** (change directory) and press the spacebar. Then drag the Resources folder (the parent directory of the original `html4.css`) from the Finder window onto the Terminal window to write its path, and press Return. At the next prompt, type **ls** to list the contents of the Resources folder (your current directory)—you should see `html4.css` listed. To remove it, type **sudo rm html4.css** and press Return. At the Password prompt, type your system administrator password and press Return. To watch it go bye-bye, click in the Finder window to make it active, and the `html4.css` file will disappear.



To get rid of a file we have no business tampering with, we invoke our magical **sudo** powers.

**4 Toss In the New File** Because you also can't just toss the new style sheet into the Resources folder, use the Terminal to move the file into place. In the Terminal, type **cd /Users/user name/Desktop** (enter your own user name for *user name*) and press Return to change directories to your desktop. Then type **sudo mv html4.css**, press the spacebar, and once again drag the Resources folder from the Finder onto the Terminal window to write the path. Press Return and at the Password prompt, type your password, press Return, and you're done. Click in the Finder window to make it active, and your new `html4.css` will pop up, ready for use.



Rather than type out the full path to this particular Resources folder, just drag and drop it into the Terminal window.

## BECAUSE I'M TOO LAZY, TIRED, LAME, OR

It's your excuse—you fill in the blank. We're certain that some of you would love to be able to change a few of Safari's seemingly unmodifiable elements and characteristics, but almost crapped in your pants at our mere mention of the Terminal and altering code. But before you flip the page, know this: A few other Safari users felt your pain and decided to do something about it by creating apps—most of them free—that can alter many of Safari's characteristics. So if rolling up your sleeves and hacking at it alone makes you feel queasy, try these apps instead (and just tell everyone you did it the hard way).

**Lioness** (free, [http://melancholyprotection.cjb.net/superqult\\_software](http://melancholyprotection.cjb.net/superqult_software)) Changes Safari's buttons to different colors, toggles between brushed metal and Aqua, and makes it easy to install your own homemade themes.

**Safari Aquafier** (free, [www.scifience.net](http://www.scifience.net)) Turns Safari's brushed metal interface into Aqua.

**Safari Enhancer** (free, [www.lordofthecows.com](http://www.lordofthecows.com)) Lets you alter many of Safari's aspects and functions, including underlines, appearance, and more.

**Safari Helper** (free, <http://zoffware.com>) Removes underlines, alters font sizes and colors, and more.

**SafariIcon** (free, <http://homepage.mac.com/reinholdpenner>) Lets you change Safari's appearance via themes.

**SafariNoBrush** (free, <http://mog.online.fr>) Toggles between brushed metal and Aqua.

**Safari Toolkit Platinum** (\$8, [www.scifience.net](http://www.scifience.net)) Toggles between brushed metal and Aqua, changes icons, removes link underlining, and enables the hidden Debug menu.



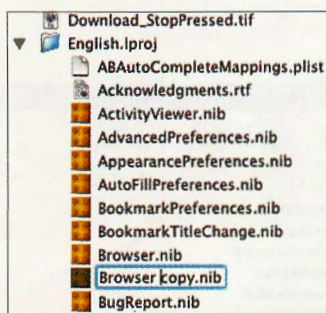
## Banish the Brushed Metal

EASY

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Mac OS 10.2 or later (\$129, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- Safari (free, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- Developer Tools (part of OS X or free download, <http://developer.apple.com/tools>)

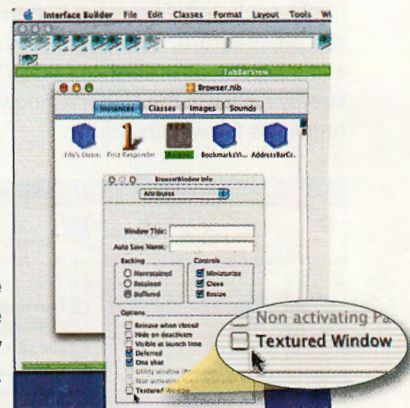
**1 Find the File** Quit Safari and locate its app icon. Holding down the Control key, click the icon and select Show Package Contents from the contextual menu. In the resulting window, navigate to Contents > Resources > English.lproj > Browser.nib. (If the Browser.nib icon is a folder, you



don't have Developer Tools installed.) Make a copy of Browser.nib (Command-D) to preserve the original—if you don't, don't say we didn't warn you.

**Whenever you start hacking into an app's resources, always, always, always make a copy first.**

**2 Turn Off Texture** Double-click Browser.nib to launch Interface Builder, a part of Developer Tools. A brushed-metal window template opens along with the Browser.nib window. In the Browser.nib window, click the Window icon. Then select Show Info from the Tools menu. In the resulting window, select Attributes from the top pop-up menu and in the Options section, uncheck the Textured Window box to turn off the brushed-metal look—the template transforms into the subtle, striped goodness of Aqua. Then save the file (Command-S). If you want to rid the steeliness from Safari's download window too, repeat with Downloads.nib. Quit Interface Builder.



**Nonmetalheads will rejoice when the window template transforms from bristly metallica to soothing Aqua after unchecking one box.**

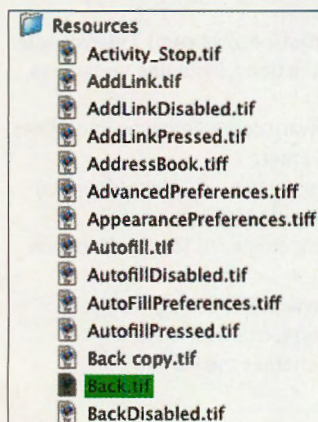
## Customize Buttons

TRICKY

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Mac OS 10.2 or later (\$129, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- Safari (free, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- Adobe Photoshop (\$609, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) or comparable image editor

**1 Locate the Button Files** Quit Safari and then open its package contents as instructed in step one of "Banish the Brushed Metal," above. Open the Contents folder and then Resources. Here, there are over 100 TIFF image files. Pick out the buttons that you display in Safari's address bar. For us, these are back, forward, home, reload, and stop—their corresponding TIFF images appear as their namesakes (for example, Home.tif). In addition to these normal states, each



button has a disabled and pressed state too, such as ReloadDisabled.tif and ForwardPressed.tif, for customizing. Find Back.tif, make that all-important copy as a backup (Command-D), and then open Back.tif in Photoshop.

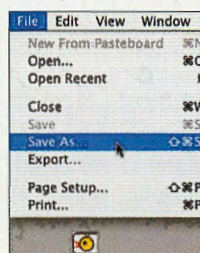
**Safari's got a lot of buttons to press—just be sure you make a backup of any of them you tweak.**

**2 Bust Out a New Button** If you don't want to spend a lot of time creating a whole new design, alter the existing one by changing colors or slightly modifying the elements. Otherwise, draw your creation on a new layer: From the Layer Menu, select New > Layer, and click OK in the resulting dialog. Zoom in between 500 and 800 percent for a better view, and scrawl away. (We created our badly drawn birdy to cover the existing arrow but kept the original's backdrop.) When finished, select Layer 1 in the Layers palette and from the Layer menu, select Merge Down.



**Create a new layer over the original, then scrawl away as much or as little as you want.**

**3 Save Different** Save the file—Photoshop saves your new Back.tif as a fat 44KB file, unlike its original 4KB. To slim it down, open it in Apple's Preview app, select Save As from the File menu, type Back.tif in the Save As field, and save it to your desktop. Then just drag the file from your desktop to the Resources folder, and click Replace in the resulting warning dialog. Repeat for all other buttons and their states.



**Because Photoshop adds bloat to TIFF files, resave your button files using Preview.**

Kris Fong believes Safari was named appropriately—version 1.0 killed her bird.

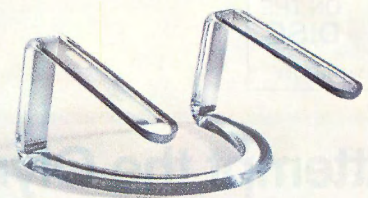
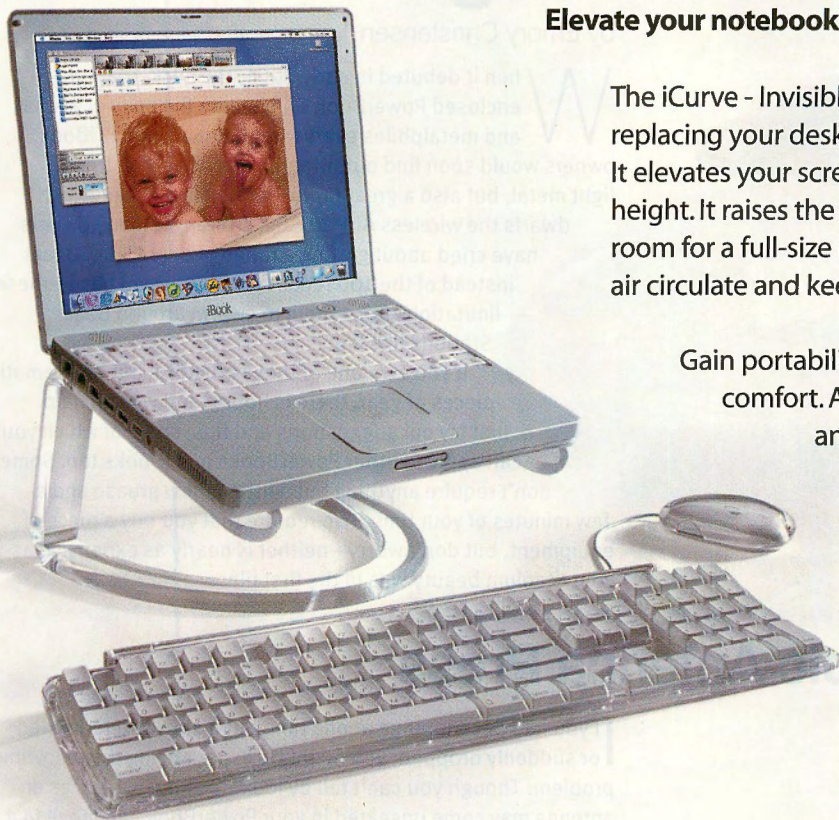


# Raise your expectations

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The iCurve - Invisible Laptop Stand is the key to replacing your desktop machine with a new notebook. It elevates your screen to a comfortable eye-level height. It raises the notebook off the desk - making room for a full-size keyboard and mouse. And it helps air circulate and keep your new 'hot' laptop cool.

Gain portability without sacrificing desktop comfort. Add an iCurve to your notebook and have the best of both worlds.



**iCurve**  
PowerBook & iBook Stand

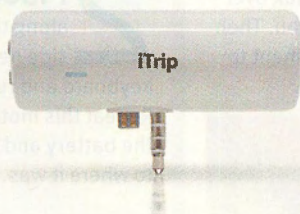
\$39<sup>99</sup>



\$99

### PowerWave USB Audio Interface & Amplifier

- Record old records to make CDs or MP3s
- Power home speakers and even Apple Pro Speakers on any USB equipped Mac
- Use as a stand-alone amp for iPods



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### iTrip FM Transmitter for iPod

- Play your iPod's music through any empty FM radio station from 97.9 to 107.9
- iPod powered - no battery necessary
- Fits snug to top of iPod - no messy cables



\$45

### PowerMate USB MultiMedia Controller Knob

- Now in Brushed Aluminum and Black
- Great control for iTunes or iMovie
- Programmable for any application
- Replaces repetitive keystrokes



# Increase Your TiBook's AirPort Range

by Emory Christensen

When it debuted in early 2001, the slick, titanium-enclosed PowerBook G4 became the envy of geeks and metalphiles everywhere. But as many TiBook owners would soon find out, titanium is not only a strong, light metal, but also a great radio-frequency blocker, which dwarfs the wireless AirPort 802.11b range. Many owners have cried about getting a range of only 15 to 30 feet instead of the 100 feet or so they should have—these limitations force them to swarm around Base Stations like flies.

If you own one of these beautiful but problematic pieces of gear, there is hope—and we can help. Just try our suggestions and tips, some of which you can apply to other PowerBooks and iBooks too. Some don't require anything but a little elbow grease and a few minutes of your time. Two require that you buy a piece of equipment, but don't worry—neither is nearly as expensive as your titanium beauty was in the first place.



## Attempt the Olympic Antenna Press



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Apple Titanium PowerBook G4 ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- AirPort card (\$79, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))
- Wireless access

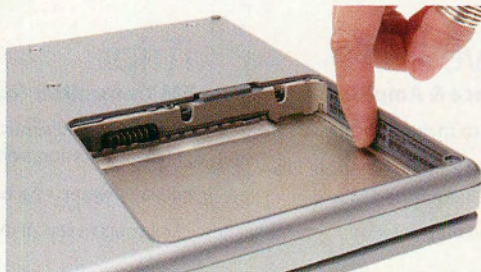
If you had decent range at one time but it slowly deteriorated or suddenly dropped, you might be experiencing the following problem: Though you can't tell by looking at it, sometimes an antenna may come unseated in your PowerBook and move to a less-than-optimal position. The following fix involves applying pressure to a strategic part of the case, which moves the antenna back into place (if it has indeed wandered).

**1 Get Access** To gain access to this special pressure point, shut down your machine and flip your TiBook over (battery side up) with the opening latch toward you. Then simply slide the latch above the battery compartment to free the battery and remove it.



Remove the battery to gain access to the sweet spot where you can pressure-squeeze your TiBook's antenna.

**2 Pressure-Slide the Antenna into Place** With moderate pressure, run your finger along the inside of the battery compartment on the side nearest the edge of the case. Press from the keyboard and rub the case siding toward you (toward the latch). Repeat this motion a few times for good measure. Then replace the battery and reboot. Hopefully, your range has gone back up to where it was. If not, try either of the next two solutions.



To readjust your TiBook's antenna, try running your finger along the empty battery compartment a few times—you just may have the healing touch.





(\$19.95, [www.ioxperts.com](http://www.ioxperts.com)) and WirelessDriver, an open-source group (free, <http://wirelessdriver.sourceforge.net>), have drivers that make a variety of 802.11b PC cards Mac-compatible under OS X; check their sites for compatibility. IOxperts' driver supports AppleTalk and WEP; WirelessDriver's doesn't, though you can use AppleTalk over TCP/IP. Here's how to install a PC card.

## Get a Wireless PC Card

EASY

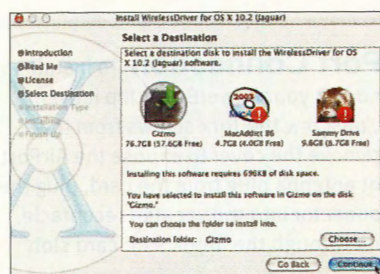
### WHAT YOU NEED

- TiBook (or other PowerBook)
- 802.11b PC card
- Wireless access

Your TiBook's poor AirPort card suffers because its attached antennas are embedded inside titanium, squelching their chance of picking up a signal strongly. But an 802.11b PC card, which sports its own antenna inside the card, will provide better range (anywhere from 100 to 200 feet) because the card sits outside that titanium deathtrap.

You have two options: You can get a Mac-compatible wireless PC card (pricier, but you'll have manufacturer support), or buy a regular 802.11b PC card (about the price of a large pizza and some beer) and install a third-party Mac OS X driver. IOxperts

**1 Designate a Driver** If you bought a Mac-compatible PC card, simply install the driver that came with the card and reboot your Mac. If you didn't (and we hope you checked with either IOxpert's or WirelessDriver's site for driver compatibility *before* you made your choice), download the driver from either site, install it, and restart your machine.



**Just install either the PC card's Mac driver or a third-party one to make the card work.**

## DEALING WITH INTERFERENCE

AirPort (and other 802.11b/g-based wireless networking equipment) runs on a very popular frequency range—around 2.4GHz. This can pose a problem because other common household devices—like cordless phones and microwave ovens—use this frequency too. And when frequencies collide, troubles arise—and your wireless networking may go down.

If you have a 2.4GHz cordless phone, try changing the AirPort channel to cut interference—some say channel 11 is far enough on the edge of the band to minimize the effect. Likewise, you can change the channel on your phone to see if that helps, though you may have to do this a few times until you find a workable situation.

If you're getting interference from your microwave, don't start that long download and then decide you simply must have popcorn. Do one or the other. While microwaves are very well shielded, your average home microwave pours out radiation a thousand times stronger than the strongest 802.11b wireless card—you're not going to outshout your microwave with your AirPort network.

**2 Stick In the Card** To install a card, simply plug it into your TiBook's PC card slot. Then open System Preferences, click Network, select your new card device (or third-party driver) from the Show pop-up menu, and reconfigure its preferences for your ISP. Now, go test the surf.



**To gain wireless access via an 802.11b PC card, just plug in the card.**



## Add an Antenna

EASY

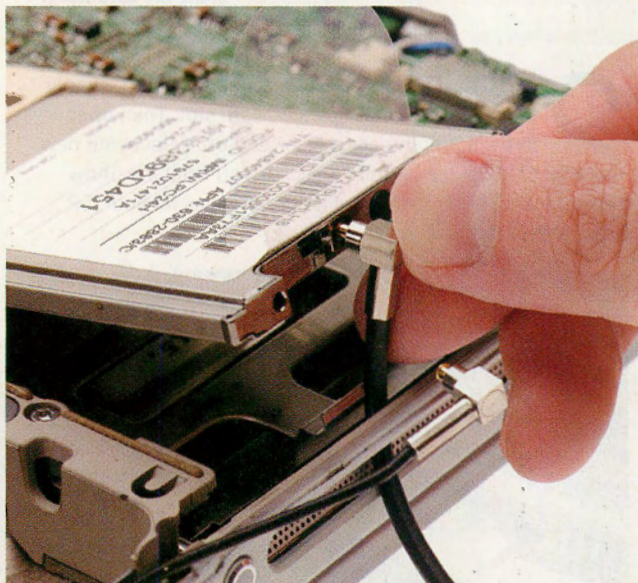
### WHAT YOU NEED

- TiBook (or other PowerBook)
- AirPort card
- Wireless access
- External antenna, such as QuickerTek's Stub or Whip (\$49.95 and \$89.95, [www.quickertek.com](http://www.quickertek.com))


If you don't want a wireless PC card, consider an external antenna instead. This type of device acts as a substitute for your 'Book's internal antennas, and can give you a range somewhere between 100 to 200 feet—or more with a Cantenna (\$19.95, [www.cantenna.com](http://www.cantenna.com)), which provides enough extension power (and kitschiness) to surf secretly on your neighbor's wireless network (we didn't say that), but requires a little extra futzing.

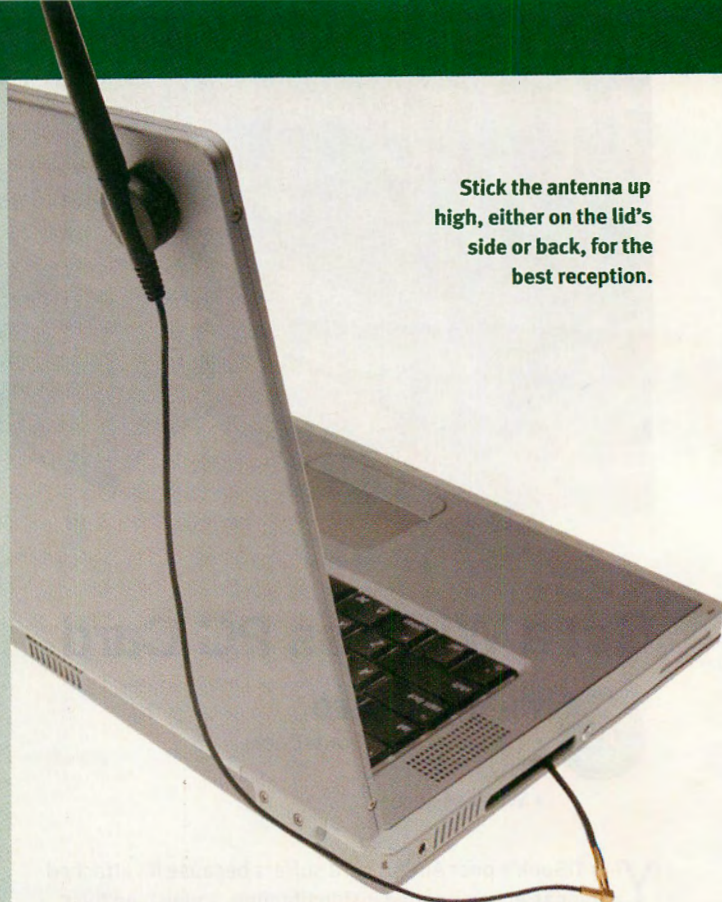
With a few exceptions, you have to connect external antennas to your AirPort card to boost the range. QuickerTek has two types: the Stub, which occupies your PC card slot, and the Whip (shown right), which attaches to a PowerBook lid. Here's how to make the connection.

**1 Make an AirPort Connection** To install the antenna, power down your PowerBook, flip it over, remove the battery, unscrew the Torx screws from the bottom cover, and remove the cover to expose the AirPort card. Disconnect the current antenna plug from the card, plug the external antenna's cable connector into the vacated receptacle, and then snake the cable out through the 'Book's PC card slot.



As with an internal antenna, you have to hook up an external antenna to the AirPort card to extend its range. Note the original connector below the card.

 Emory Christensen is investigating the possibility of building an 802.11b repeater and sticking it high on a hillside so he can play Unreal Tournament properly.



Stick the antenna up high, either on the lid's side or back, for the best reception.

**2 Attach the Antenna** Attach the antenna to the cable that's sticking out from the card slot, and then reassemble your PowerBook. To put the antenna to use, affix its holder high up on the lid of your computer, and then slide the antenna into it. Then power up and enjoy the distance. One downside: You lose the use of your PC card slot as long as the antenna is installed, but if you're really gutsy (and really skilled), you can drill a hole in your case for the cable path, leaving the slot free.

## CHEAP TRICKS AND TIPS

**Get Horizontal** If you have an AirPort Base Station, make sure you position it horizontally; it won't radiate as well if you mount it vertically on a wall.

**Say No to Metal** Radio frequencies have an aversion to metal, so keep Granny and her new hip and other obstructions away from your computer and router path.

**Make Your Own Antenna** If you're too poor to buy one, try creating a crude antenna by wrapping a wire around your Base Station or router a few times and then running the wire toward your TiBook. Though this can boost reception, it may also create an illegal "leaky" antenna, so proceed with caution.

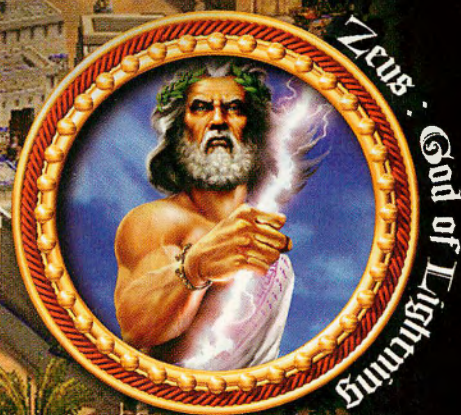
**Fuss with Placement** Rotate your Base Station or router or put it on its side to see if it helps your signal strength.

**Sniff Out the Best Reception** Use a signal sniffer such as MacStumbler (free, [www.macstumbler.com](http://www.macstumbler.com)) to measure your AirPort signal, and then move the Base Station or router around until you find the best possible placement.



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# Add Automated Functions to Excel

by Kris Fong and Helen Bradley

TRICKY

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Microsoft Excel (\$399 stand alone or \$499 as part of Office v.X, [www.microsoft.com/mac](http://www.microsoft.com/mac))
- MacAddict Invoice Example worksheet or your own invoice



ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	AMOUNT
10098567	Choco-latte Sour Neon Gummy Worms (8 oz.)	2	\$4.50	\$9.00
24563698	Butter-Fried Beef Jerky (16 oz.)	4	\$12.00	\$48.00
37609823	Marshmallow Burgers & Fries (12 oz.)	2	\$3.50	\$7.00
20912629	Gourmet Cocktail Wienies w/Kraut (16 oz.)	1	\$8.00	\$8.00

Subtotal:	\$72.00
Tax:	n/a
Weight (lb.)/Shipping:	7.50 \$52.50
Payment Type:	
<b>TOTAL=</b>	<b>\$124.50</b>

THANK YOU!

You can figure out shipping costs the hard way (break out the calculator!) or simply make Excel crunch the numbers for you.

Even the most dogmatic anti-Microsoft militants agree that that company's ubiquitous spreadsheet application, Excel, is a powerful tool when managing business activities. After all, how else can you expect to demonstrate your cost-cutting skills and get that promotion?

While most Excelians know their way around a spreadsheet,

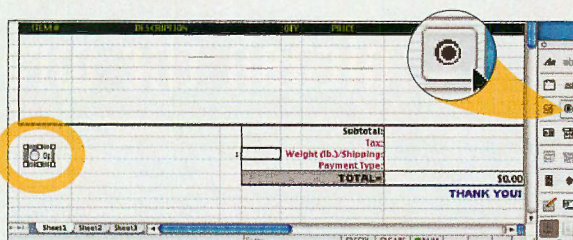
many may not know that you can use the Forms toolbar to embed custom tools directly into worksheets to automate data entries. By using this toolbar, you can create items such as buttons and drop-down menus to perform one-click entries. Here's how to add these two functions to your worksheets.

## Create One-Click Option Entries

If you're tired of entering repetitive data into a spreadsheet, Excel enables you to add option buttons—what everyone but Microsoft calls radio buttons—to a worksheet that will automatically fill in repetitive information. For example, if you're in retail, you can add option buttons linked to nonvariable info such as shipping rates, so that you only have to enter variable information—such as how many one-pound bags of Butter-Fried Beef Jerky your customer wants to buy. Excel then automatically calculates and enters the shipping rates into a specific cell that you designate in your invoice.

Sound complicated? It's not. Here's how to do it—just follow along using either our mock shipping invoice (on the Disc) or a document of your own.

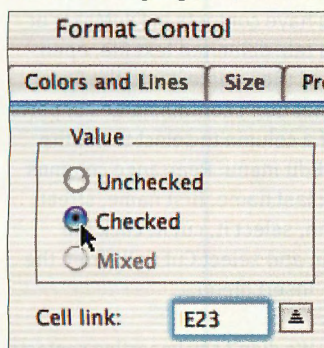
**1 Add an Option Button** Open our invoice (or your own) in Excel. From the View menu, select Toolbars > Forms to display the Forms toolbar. Click the option button tool (the white circle with a black dot), and then click in the worksheet to place the button. If you need to move the button, you can drag it around with your mouse or use the arrow keys to fine-tune its placement (Shift-Option-click to select a button if it's not already highlighted).



To keep things tidy, we created our first shipping option button on the same line where our invoice's shipping cost appears.

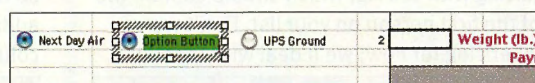


**2 Set the Control** Clicking the button won't do you any good unless you assign a function to it. To do so, Control-click the button and select **Format Control** from the contextual menu. In the dialog that appears, click the **Control** tab. We want cell E23 to hold the shipping-code data, so type *E23* in the **Cell Link** field. Then choose **Checked** from the **Value** options, and click **OK**. With the button still highlighted, click and drag either of the bounding box's right corners until the button name is fully displayed. Then highlight the default text (*option button*) and type *Next Day Air* to replace it.



Typing *E23* in the **Cell Link** field links our option button to this cell.

**3 Create More Options** Because we also want options for 2-3 Day and UPS Ground shipping, we need more buttons. Luckily, all of the buttons you subsequently create will automatically inherit the same formatting as the first. Therefore, just select the option button tool and click in the worksheet next to the first button to create a second button. Repeat to create a third. With the third button still highlighted, expand its bounding box to display its default name, and rename it as *UPS Ground*. Then Shift-Option-click the second button to select it, expand its bounding box, and change its name to *2-3 Day*. Test the buttons by clicking each in turn (clicking one deselects the others); the value shown in cell E23 (1, 2, or 3, corresponding to the order in which you created the buttons) should change as you click each button.



Rename each option button to reflect your shipping options—this one will become our 2-3 Day option.

**4 Devise a Formula** Now that you know your buttons are working, assign real dollar values for each choice. For example, let's say UPS charges \$7.00 per pound for Next Day Air delivery, \$5.00 per pound for 2-3 Day shipping, and \$1.50 per pound for UPS Ground. In our invoice, cell F23 contains the package weight in pounds, and cell I23 displays the total shipping costs. To create a formula that calculates the shipping cost by weight for all three options and displays the total dollar amount in cell I23, click cell I23, type `=CHOOSE(E23,7,5,1.5)*F23`, and press Return. If you have your own invoice, the formula syntax works like this: `=CHOOSE(cell number to which all buttons are linked,first button's value,second button's value,third button's value)*cell number that holds the number you're multiplying by the buttons' values`.

If you use our invoice, type this formula exactly as it appears.

If using your own, apply the formula to your cells accordingly.

Subtotal:	
Tax:	
Weight (lb.)/Shipping:	=CHOOSE(E23,7,5,1.5)*F23
Payment Type:	
TOTAL=	\$0.00
	THANK YOU!

**5 Check It Out** To test your formula, suppose you have a 7.5-pound package to ship Next Day Air. Click the Next Day Air button, type 7.5 in cell F23, and press Return. The shipping cost should show up as \$52.50 in cell I23. Select the 2-3 Day button; the shipping should come to \$37.50. If you select UPS Ground, you should get \$11.25.

Subtotal:	\$0.00
Tax:	n/a
Weight (lb.)/Shipping:	\$52.50
Payment Type:	
TOTAL=	\$52.50
	THANK YOU!

Wanna see the payoff? Just click a shipping option, enter a weight in cell F23, and fix your eyeballs on the cell next to Shipping.

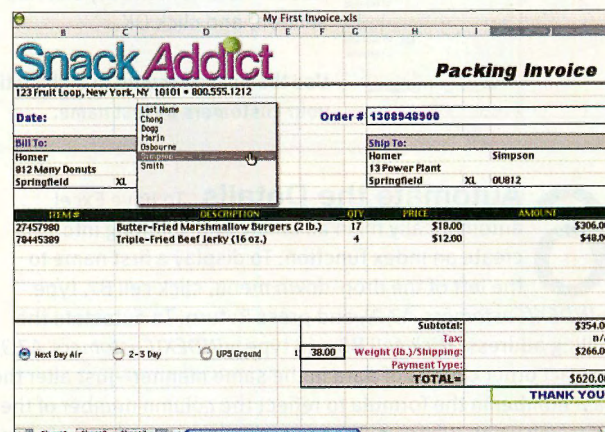
## Auto-Fill Fields via a Custom Menu



### WHAT YOU NEED

- Microsoft Excel
- MacAddict Invoice Example worksheet or your own invoice

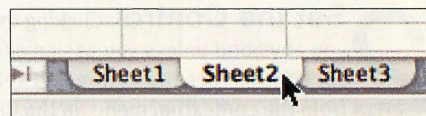
Just as you choose items from application and Finder drop-down menus, you can add menus to your Excel worksheets for quick access to frequently used information. For example, rather than type in a customer's billing- and shipping-address info each time you ship something to them, you can simply select his or her name from a drop-down menu list and Excel will enter the shipping info for you. Here's how to create a drop-down menu and a formula that extracts customer info from a customer list.



By creating a menu, all we need to do is choose a customer from the list to auto-fill the **Bill To** and **Ship To** fields.



**1 Coordinate Two Sheets** You need two worksheets of data—one for your invoice and one for customer info—but you don't need two separate files; Excel can stack together related worksheets in a single workbook. Open an invoice in Excel. At the bottom of the sheet, there are three numbered tabs that represent separate worksheets; Sheet 1 is the invoice. To create a customer list, click the Sheet 2 tab. To import contacts from an existing database, skip to step 3. If creating one from scratch, read on.



Click the Sheet 2 tab to reveal a spankin'-new worksheet just waiting for your VIP contacts.

**2 Create a Customer List** First create headers; in cell A1, type *Last Name*. Press the Tab key to move to cell B1 and type *First Name*. Continue tabbing and typing so that you have *Billing Address* in cell C1, *City* in D1, *State* in E1, and *Zip* in F1. Then type in all of your customer contacts starting with cell A2, which should contain the last name of the first person on your list. Don't worry about alphabetizing for now; we'll deal with that later.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Last Name	First Name	Billing Address	City	State	Zip
2	Osbourne	Orzy	666 Madman Way	Beverly Hills	CA	90210
3	Smith	Anna Nicole	1 Divorce Court	Hollywood	CA	90213
4	Dogg	Snoop	420 Spliff Street	Weed	CA	91234
5	Marin	Cheech	22 Smokey Way	San Francisco	CA	94122
6	Chong	Tommy	4 Grass Drive	Humboldt	CA	93546
7	Simpson	Homer	812 Many Donuts	Springfield		

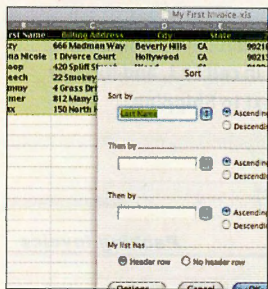
Once you create column headers, fill in each cell below them with the appropriate contact info.

**3 Import Contacts** If you have contacts in FileMaker or Entourage, export that data as a tab-delimited text file, open the file, select all text, copy it, and then paste it into the Excel worksheet. Delete all columns that don't contain names or parts of addresses; click the letter at the top of a column to select the entire column, and then select Delete from the Edit menu. Rearrange columns so that they fall in this order, left to right: last name, first name, street address, city, state, zip. To move a column, select it, cut it, click the column letter where you want it to appear, and select Cut Cells from the Insert menu.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	First Name	Title	Suffix	Nickname	Company	Job Title		
2	Kris				MacAddict			
3	Owen				Owen Ink			
4	Athena				Barbee Killed Kenn			
5	Clay				Intel			
6	Alan				Duke University			
7	Lane				CHET			
8	Glenn				Microsoft			
9	Troy				Lucasfilm	Art Dir		
10	Dave				Pixar			
11	Ron				The Cheeseballs			
12	Carl							

We didn't say importing contacts was going to be pretty—you may need to delete a lot of unnecessary columns.

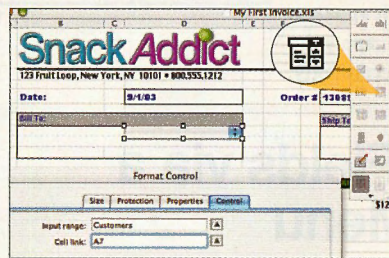
**4 Add More, Arrange More** Now add four more columns to hold shipping-address info. Type *Shipping Address* in G1, *City* in H1, *State* in I1, and *Zip* in J1. Then fill in your customers' shipping info accordingly (if billing and shipping are the same, just copy and paste the info between cells). If you want to change fonts, formatting, colors, or borders and shading, select Formatting Palette from the View menu and use its tools to pretty up your work. To resize a column, drag either of the separator lines flanking the column's letter header. To alphabetize by last name, click and drag down column A from cell A1 to your last entry to select. From the Data menu, select Sort.



sort. In the dialog that appears, select Column A in the Sort By pop-up menu, then click the Ascending radio button next to it. Choose Header Row from the My List Has section, and click OK.

Use the Sort command to alphabetize your customers by last name.

**5 Create the Menu** To link your menu, define your contacts list as customers. Hold down the Shift key and click the A column header and then the J column header to select all columns. From the Insert menu, select Name, and then Define. In the resulting dialog, type Customers in the box below Names In Workbook and click OK. Click the Sheet 1 tab to switch to the invoice worksheet, and from the View menu, select Toolbars > Forms to open the toolbar. Select the combo box tool and click and drag across cell D7 to draw a menu. Control-click the menu and select Format Control from the contextual menu. In the resulting dialog, type Customers in the Input Range field and type A7 in the Cell Link field. Click OK.



Then click any cell to deselect the menu, and click the menu to select a name.

Use the combo box tool to draw a drop-down menu on the invoice.

**6 Automate the Details** To have Excel automatically fill in all billing and shipping info, create an Index function. To display a first name to the left of the drop-down menu, click cell B7, type `=INDEX(Customers,A7,2)`, and press Return. To automate the billing address, click cell B8 and type `=INDEX(Customers,A7,3)`. Extract other chunks of data in the same manner—just alter the last number in the formula to reflect the column number of the data you want. When you're done, check your work by selecting any customer from the menu. Of course, you can also apply what you just learned to your own worksheet.



To automate address info, enter an Index formula in every affected cell.

Kris Fong and Helen Bradley wish for a Word function that would automatically generate a bio blurb. Oh, wait: `=RAND()`.



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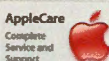
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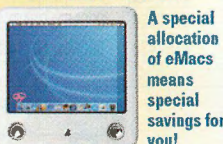
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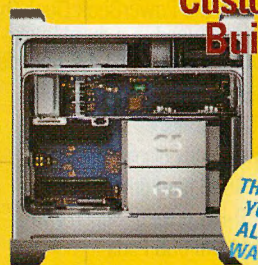
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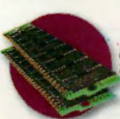


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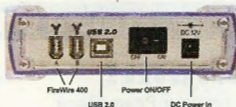


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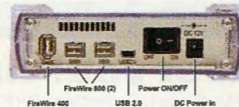


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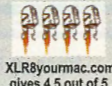
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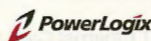
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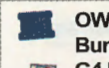
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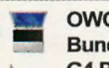
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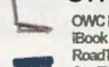
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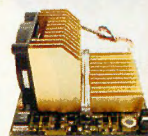
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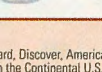
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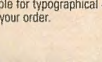
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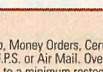
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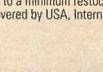
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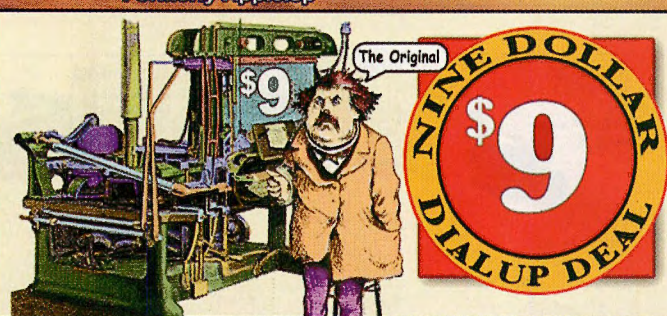
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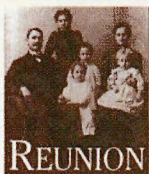
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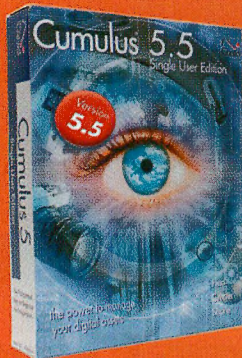
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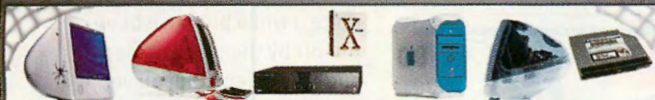
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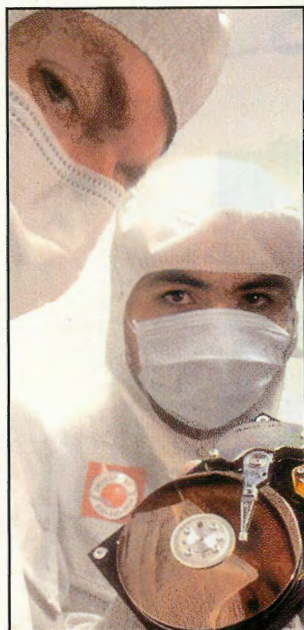
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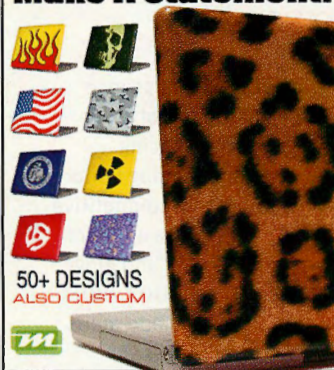
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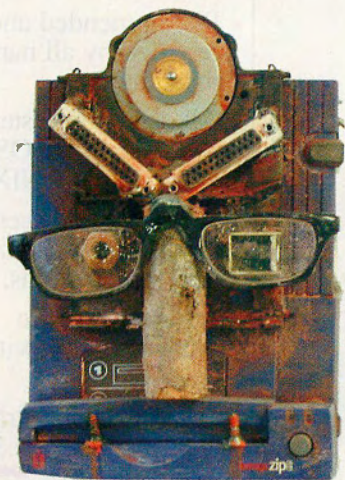
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## LETTERS

MR. ZIP AND THE  
CLICK OF DEATH

## RECENTLY SIGHTED

A shrine to our Zip drive's fatal Click of Death: Its now useless carcass hangs on our art department's door at WCNY—Syracuse, NY's public broadcasting station.—*Steve Meltzer*

## FENCING AND GAMING

I work at the Renaissance Faire in Marin County, CA, where we give fencing lessons. Is Managing Editor Jenifer Morgan a competitive fencer? Lately, she appears in a fencing mask and glove (*Editors' Page*, Jul/03, p8). Also, can you include mods and relevant processor upgrades in your gaming section?—*Matt Maychrowitz*  
A flagon of Swashbuckler's

Gold be raised to ye, good fellow! Maid Morgan indeed dabbled in fencing in olden times. And you can bet your sackbut we'll be tossin' more mod and hardware news into the pipkin for ye.—*Max*

## LEAN, GREEN, BUT NOT TOTALLY MEAN

I loved the iMac, iBook, and beautiful Apple Cinema Display that appeared in the movie *The Hulk*, but I was freaked out when the Hulk

smashed that display. Was the display smashed for real or virtually with computer graphics?—*L. James Stock III*  
Our sources say computer animation was the sole source of the smashing. No display was harmed in the making of the film.—*Max*

## IMPERSONATING JOBS

I appreciate all of the coverage of Apple products in your magazine. I've been a subscriber from the start and have enjoyed every issue.—*Steven P. Jobs*

Nice try, but your Internet headers give you away—we doubt Apple's corporate mail goes through Earthlink's servers.—*Max*

## AN OF OUNCE PREVENTION...

Thanks a lot for Dave Hamilton's "50 Biggest Mac Bugs and How to Kill 'Em" (Aug/03, p16). I'll make his preventive maintenance suggestions a permanent part of my monthly regimen.—*Ed*



Our troubleshooting guide killed bad bugs dead.

## G'BYE, C&amp;G

What's the matter with Casady & Greene? I went to look for information on Spell Catcher X and found only a broken link to their site.—*HR*  
If you return to [www.casadyg.com](http://www.casadyg.com), you'll now find a poignant letter stating why, after 19 years in the software biz, the proud publishers of Spell Catcher X closed for business on July 3, 2003. They'll be missed.—*Max*



River's Mac drivers are craftily hidden, but we found them.

## IRIVER DRIVERS

In the August 2003 *Droolworthy* section (p12), y'all show the iRiver iFP-395T MP3 player. I've had my eye on the iRiver MP3 players for quite a while but have been put off by their lack of Mac support. Seeing the player in your mag raised my hopes high. I dashed over to iRiver's Web site but could not find any Mac drivers. What's the deal?—*Jason*

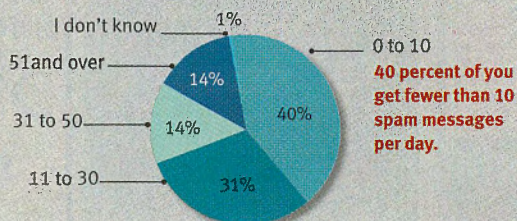
Go to <http://iriveramerica.com/support/iFP-manager.asp>. You should find what you're looking for.—*Max*

## SURVEY SAYS

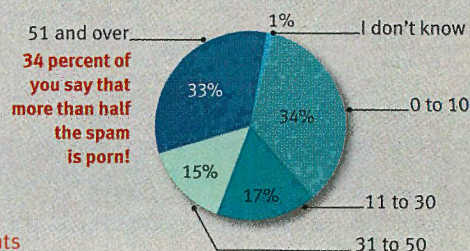
## Online Poll Results

Results of our June 2003 online poll (poll questions also appeared in the August 2003 issue). Check [www.macaddict.com](http://www.macaddict.com) each month for a new online poll.

How many junk email messages (aka spam) do you receive in a day?



What percentage of that email is lascivious rubbish?



748 respondents





**A Jedi Outcast's biggest thrill: a big pile of dead stormtroopers.**

## TROOPER JELLY

This screenshot is from one of the higher levels on the Imperial construction base in Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast. While deflecting shots from afar, I pulled the stormtroopers toward me for the kill.—*Ben Ambler*

## OH, RIGHT, FUN

All the bull about the iTunes Music Store and whether or not it will survive ("Tune Wars!", Aug/03, p10) misses a big piece of the pie. Can't we just say that the dang thing is just plain fun? I find myself just playing the short versions and remembering music and artists that I had long forgotten.—*Jim St. Pierre*

## THE MICROSOFT MAC SAGA

There's this guy where I work who has this stupid idea that Microsoft bought Apple a few years ago. Could you straighten out the facts?

—*Tom Hodgetts*

Sure. In 1997, Bill Gates's 20-foot-tall head appeared at a Macworld Expo Keynote address via satellite to announce a technology agreement with Apple. Microsoft agreed to purchase \$150 million

worth of nonvoting shares of Apple stock and to continue Mac versions of key apps, such as Office. In exchange, Apple agreed to bundle Internet Explorer with new Macs and drop pending patent litigation. Five years later, the technology agreement has lapsed and Microsoft is discontinuing development of Internet Explorer for Mac—but they're still making boatloads of cash from Office v. X.—*Max*

## MICRONUKIE FALLOUT

My god! No! No! Oh, my sweet Jesus, no! Run away as fast as you can! Now! Don't hesitate for a nanosecond. Don't even think about approaching this evil hardware from hell. May it rot in the deepest excrement-filled trenches of Beelzebub's most vile dungeon! May it lay down with sewer rats and couple with toads. May it find a home in Redmond.

—*Dave Orr*

Dave's sharp eyes managed to read the review that resulted from our mock testing of the Colonotech MicroNukie Pro III Deluxe Gold Studio Edition X (*Shut Down*, Aug/03, p96), which earned the dreaded rating of Damned.—*Max*



**The Damned.**

## MacAddict CONTEST

# WIN AN MBOX AND PLASTIKMAN'S LATEST CD

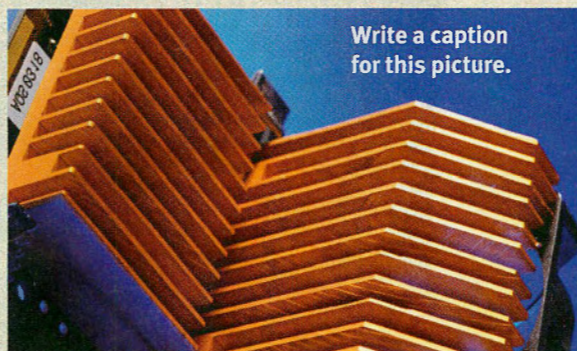
A double whammy! Win a Digidesign Mbox (\$495, [www.digidesign.com](http://www.digidesign.com)), a portable USB audio-production system, and an autographed copy of *Closer*, the latest CD from Plastikman (aka DJ Richie Hawtin), featured in this month's "Spin Different," p10. To win, just write the best caption for the picture below and send it in.



**Win Digidesign's Mbox and Plastikman's *Closer*.**

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF PLASTIKMAN AND DIGIDESIGN  
NOTE: CD COVER ALTERED FOR READABILITY

## ENTRY FORM



Write a caption for this picture.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

### CONTESTANT INFORMATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email or telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Send snail-mail entries to: Mbox/Plastikman Contest  
MacAddict magazine, 150 North Hill Dr., Brisbane, CA 94005  
Send email entries to [contest@macaddict.com](mailto:contest@macaddict.com). Subject: Mbox/Plastikman Contest  
Deadline for entry: October 31, 2003. Contest results will appear in our Feb/04 issue.

### Contest Rules

The judges will be MacAddict editors, and they will base their decision on 50 percent humor and 50 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than October 31, 2003, with the winner announced around February 2004. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded and no minimum number of entries is required. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o MacAddict Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary; void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.

## CONTEST

# WINNER!

### Wackiest Business Idea Contest Results

Congratulations to **Boyd Shaffer** for his visionary idea of turning frozen moose poop into jewelry, figurines, and other tourist-trap trinkets. Boyd wins a copy of QuickBooks 5.0 for Mac (\$299.95, [www.quickbooks.com](http://www.quickbooks.com)).





## GRATE EXPECTATIONS

When we first saw the perforated front panel of the new Power Mac G5, our usually crackerjack editorial staff mistook Apple's latest pro tower for a cheese grater. To compound that error, our usually crackerjack art staff accidentally used an actual cheese grater for our cover photo instead of the new mega-Mac.

Coagulating that error, we dedicated our entire September issue to cheese. Had one extra-sharp-eyed editor not caught our distinctively pungent error at the very last minute, the issue shown here (above, left) might have wheeled its way to you—and while you may be as fond of fondue as we are, we suspect the flavor of our G5 coverage might have disappointed you.



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